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# ARAB TIMES

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## World goes crazy

### Millions celebrate hope for '90s

**WASHINGTON**, Jan 1. (Agencies): The 1990s began with the world assessing the remarkable changes wrought in the last year — with some countries finding cause for great optimism and others doubt.

Romanians, still ecstatic over the revolution that brought down dictator Nicolae Ceausescu less than two weeks ago, were reassured by interim president Ion Iliescu, who yesterday made a renewed commitment to political pluralism. Iliescu, in a wide-ranging new year's address, also announced the abolition of the death

penalty and reintroduced the concept of private ownership.

Pope John Paul II hailed 1989 as a year "so rich in profound changes" and expressed hopes the new year would bring peace and triumph over violence and vengeance.

The Pontiff offered prayers before a crowd of tens of thousands in St. Peter's Square, saying: "Let us ask God to help us ... construct the hoped-for civilisation of love."

Berliners happily indulged in a huge revel along the newly porous Berlin Wall.

Fireworks illuminated the midnight sky over the Brandenburg Gate, which until November had been a towering emblem of the city's partition.

The soot-stained gate was swathed in smoke as young people from around the world clambered atop the surrounding wall and scaled the gate itself.

An outdoor projection screen collapsed under the weight of revellers after midnight, killing a man and injuring scores of people, East Germany's official ADN news agency reported. It said drunks and a carpet of broken glass from champagne bottles hindered rescue workers.

In Manila, authorities said more than 1,000 were injured and three fires erupted as Filipinos greeted the New Year today with a barrage of fireworks and gunshots in the air.

In London, at least 40 people suffered injuries during rowdy celebrations as Big Ben struck midnight, and an exuberant crowd of about 70,000 New Year's revellers thronged Trafalgar Square to see in 1990 with dancing, singing and drinking.

The changes in East Germany and Romania — as well as those in other East bloc countries — were on the mind of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher who said yesterday that "the overwhelming lesson of the 1980s is that socialism has failed."

Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu pledged Japan's support today for democratic reform in eastern Europe, and said he hoped the changes there would favourably influence Asia.

"At present I can't see any change in the region," he said, noting continued tensions on the Korean peninsula and conflict in Cambodia.

Since Asia has different geopolitical characteristics, Kaifu said, it would be an oversimplification to expect a direct transplanting of the reforms being made in eastern Europe.

He urged China, however, to show signs of change so that Western countries could lift sanctions imposed on Beijing after its violent crackdown in June on the pro-democracy movement.

President George Bush invited the people of the Soviet Union to "look forward to a new century, and a new millennium, of peace, freedom and prosperity."

In a video message to be broadcast on Soviet television, Bush said, "there are no maps to lead us where we are going, to this new world of our own making. We can find our way only through co-operation beginning with a candid dialogue."

The package includes a promise to bring forward legislation during the budget session of Parliament to amend the constitution to make the "right to work" a fundamental right. An employment guarantee programme will also be implemented progressively.

Also on the anvil is a comprehensive constitution amendment bill on "Panchayati Raj" for devolution of powers, which will be drawn up after discussion with state chief ministers.

An outlay of at least 50 per cent of investible resources in the agricultural and rural sectors of the economy will be ensured starting with the annual plan of 1990-91.

To give farmers remunerative prices for their produce, the government has proposed to change the method of computing support prices. It will introduce a formula for adjusting support prices for inflation from the date of announcement to the time of marketing.

Labour will be costed on the basis of actual wages paid or minimum wages, whichever is higher. The method will also include an element of managerial or entrepreneurial labour in the family labour input and cost this at a higher rate than agricultural labour.

The Agriculture Ministry will appoint an expert committee to recommend way and means of implementing these changes. A meeting of chief ministers will be held by April next to finalise a programme of land reforms.

The government has promised debt relief to small, marginal and

(Continued on Page 13)



A British policeman gets a warm welcome into the New Year at London's Trafalgar Square. (Reuters wirephoto)

Aquino walks with Manila Archbishop Cardinal Jaime Sin at the presidential palace during the launching of 'Decade of peace' programme. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Beware of tyranny

Cory revamps cabinet

**MANILA**, Jan 1. (Agencies): Philippine President Corazon Aquino, warning army rebels will impose a new tyranny if they topple her, called today for sacrifices to build the country and told the rich not to "flaunt your wealth nor abuse your privilege."

Aquino made the appeal as the military announced a manifesto for cashiered army Colonel Gregorio Honasan and other fugitive leaders of last month's bloody coup attempt, the sixth and most serious of her four years in office.

Aquino presided over a presidential palace ceremony today dedicating the 1990s as a "decade of peace" in the Philippines.

"The night of darkness that we just went through makes imperative this call of peace," Aquino said.

She said the peace Filipinos were seeking could not come from "godless" communist rebels fighting a 20-year-long war of former President Ferdinand Marcos.

"Nor can it come from the fascist right whose lust for wealth and power would bring us back to the dark days of the tyrant," Aquino added, referring to the ousted government.

She called on Filipinos to "share burdens and sacrifices" to rebuild the country's coup-fractured economy.

"To the wealthy and privileged of this land, those who enjoy economic and political power, I ask you to live lives of strong moral values and not to flaunt your wealth nor

(See Page 2)

## Singh plans to help poor

By Thomas Abraham  
Arab Times correspondent

**NEW DELHI**, Jan 1: India's new government today announced a time-bound package of socio-economic programmes as its "New Year gift" to the people and in fulfilment of its poll commitments.

The package includes a promise to bring forward legislation during the budget session of Parliament to amend the constitution to make the "right to work" a fundamental right. An employment guarantee programme will also be implemented progressively.

Also on the anvil is a comprehensive constitution amendment bill on "Panchayati Raj" for devolution of powers, which will be drawn up after discussion with state chief ministers.

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(Continued on Page 13)

## Premier to visit Egypt

**KUWAIT**, Jan 1. (Reuters): HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla Al Sabah will visit Egypt on January 8, the official Kuwaiti News Agency Kuna said.

In a statement issued following the weekly cabinet meeting, Kuna said he would be accompanied by the ministers of commerce and trade, justice and legal affairs and foreign affairs.

## Weather

FAIR weather with light north-westerly wind changes gradually to slight southwesterly wind.  
State of seas: slight to moderate  
High water: 6.01 am, 4.00 pm  
Low water: 9.28 am, 10.33 pm  
Sunrise: 6.43 am  
Sunset: 5.01 pm  
Maximum temperatures recorded:  
Kuwait: 23°C/73°F  
Abdullah: 22°C/72°F  
Fujairah: 21°C/70°F  
Minimum temperatures recorded:  
Kuwait: 10°C/50°F  
Abdullah: 13°C/55°F  
Fujairah: 13°C/55°F  
Maximum temperatures expected:  
Kuwait: 23°C/73°F  
Abdullah: 22°C/72°F  
Fujairah: 22°C/72°F  
Maximum humidity recorded:  
Kuwait: 10 per cent  
Abdullah: 85 per cent  
Fujairah: 89 per cent

## Bomb-threatened airliner Safe plane flight

**DETROIT**, Jan 1. (UPI): A Northwest Airlines flight from Paris that was the target of a bomb threat landed safely Saturday on a trans-Atlantic trip that carried 22 passengers out of 130 originally booked on the plane.

The DC-10 jetliner landed without incident at 4:40 pm EST (2140 GMT) at Detroit metropolitan airport. Flight 51 was met by security personnel who used dogs in a fruitless check for explosives.

The flight completed its final leg, landing in San Francisco at 12.40 am EST (0540 GMT), one hour and 40 minutes late.

Arch Naylor, a University of Michigan engineering professor who had been on sabbatical in France, said there "were no problems at all" on the eight-hour flight to Detroit. "It was luxurious," he said. "I've never been treated so well. Every-

thing was free and there were tons of movies."

A total of 130 passengers had been booked on the flight from Paris to Detroit but only 22 of them, including an airline publicist, made the trip, Northwest officials said. Officials in Paris had earlier put the number of passengers at 28.

All nine crew members, including Captain Gary Ferguson, made the trip. The airline had allowed them to decline to serve on the flight if they wished.

Naylor's 25-year-old son Dirk embarked him on his arrival at the Detroit airport. Dirk said his father had made a message on his answering machine saying that he felt confident and was going to make the flight. The young Naylor admitted he was concerned, however, and said a sister in California felt their father had made the wrong decision.

Meanwhile, Soviets looked back on 1989 and saw both a reformed political system — in which some legislators were elected in free balloting — and a declining standard of living. Food shortages have become so acute that many could not find champagne and delicacies for the holiday.

Gorbachev used New Year's Eve to note a year of strikes, ethnic violence and economic strains.

Yet he said, "the 1990s bid fair to become the most fruitful period in the history of civilisation" if people concentrate on

(Continued on Page 2)

## Oil slick threatens Morocco

**RABAT**, Jan 1. (Reuters): A huge oil slick from a stricken Iranian supertanker drifted closer to Morocco's Atlantic shore today threatening one of the world's worst-ever ecological disasters.

Oversight south-westerly winds and currents pushed the 175-mile long slick to within 2.5 miles of the coast with international experts warning of a catastrophe to rival the Exxon Valdez crude spill in Alaska.

Moroccan radio today quoted Environment Ministry sources as saying the situation was under control after the government had earlier appealed for international help to tow the tanker at least 300 miles further from its shore.

But shipping sources doubted the accuracy of the reports.

"The slick is as close as 2.5 miles in places. It is just not possible at that distance to have it under control," one told Reuters.

An international team from France, Britain, Spain and Portugal are battling to contain the spill with booms and detergents. (See Page 13)

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## Saudi security guards foil attempt to hijack plane

**Riyadh**, Jan 1. (AP): Security guards on a Saudi Arabian airliner yesterday overpowered a man who tried to force the pilot to fly to Cyprus where he said he planned to blow up the plane operated by Saudi Arabia's flag carrier, Saudia.

The statement did not explain how the would-be hijacker planned to force the pilot to fly to Cyprus or how he planned to blow up the plane operated by Saudi Arabia's flag carrier, Saudia.

But the source noted, without elaboration, that the man was in "an unnatural condition" indicating he could have been under the influence of drugs.

The statement said 30 minutes after the airliner took off on a domestic 600-mile

(1,000-kilometre) flight from the Red Sea port of Jeddah for the capital, Riyadh, the man gave one of the flight attendants a note for the captain.

It demanded that the plane be flown to Larnaca, Cyprus, where he and some companions would blow it up, the ministry statement said.

The plane's sky marshals were alerted and they advised the pilot to return to Jeddah, the statement added.

## Israeli govt about to fall

Weizman fired

**Romania** had sold Jews for cash

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM**, Jan 1. (AP): Israel paid thousands of dollars in cash to Nicolae Ceausescu for every Romanian Jew he allowed to emigrate to this country, an Israeli newspaper has revealed.

For years, Ceausescu received between five and seven thousand dollars for every emigration visa issued to Jews, and some \$50 to \$60 million ended up in the executed Romanian dictator's own pocket, the Yedioth Aharonot said in its weekend edition.

Quoting reliable sources, the paper said that the official agencies responsible for immigration in Israel, including the Foreign Ministry and the pseudo-governmental Jewish Agency, acknowledged that Ceausescu was paid but would not give accurate figures.

Israel officials reportedly knew of the payoffs for years, but they dared not expose or publicize it for fear it would halt immigration from Romania, Yedioth said.

"Even we, like Israel, knew of the Libyan and PLO involvement in Romania, and of the payment for Jewish emigration, but our interest was the protection of the Jews in Romania and not of what kind of dictator Ceausescu was," the paper quoted an unnamed official involved in the deals.

According to the paper, the money given Ceausescu was not "state funds" but was money raised by various Jewish organizations. It said reliable sources among the Jewish community in the US confirmed that Ceausescu had received the money for the past twenty years.

Edgar Bronfman, the head of the World Jewish Congress, cultivated close ties with Ceausescu and even visited the Romanian ruler in 1988 and was asked to help Romania keep its economically beneficial "favoured nation" status, the paper said.



Weizman: sacked

man would lose his post as science minister but would remain as a minister without portfolio in the 26-man cabinet.

Shimon Peres, the Labour Party leader, also criticised the compromise proposal calling for taking away Weizman's science post.

"Why should you give him a punishment? How can you punish a man without an inquiry?" he said on Israel Army radio.

Meanwhile, Dr Ahmed Tibi, the Israeli-Arab physician who supposedly served as a go-between for Weizman's meetings with PLO officials, denied that the 65-year-old government minister had met any figures in the PLO.

Tibi, interviewed from the Jordanian capital of Amman, said he did not want to "relate explicitly" to the charge that Weizman had indirect contact with the PLO.

"Indirect negotiations between the Israeli government and Shimon Peres were refusing to agree to a compromise in which Weiz-

"man would not be given any details."

## Colombo to discuss pullout with Delhi

COLOMBO, Jan 1, (AP): Sri Lanka will negotiate with India this week in an effort to speed up the withdrawal of Indian peacekeeping troops, a Foreign Ministry official said today.

Foreign Secretary Bernard Tillekeratne will fly to New Delhi on Tuesday to start the discussions, the official said.

Depending on how the talks go, Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne may join Tillekeratne in the Indian capital on Thursday, the official added, speaking on condition of anonymity.

He said Wijeratne will be accompanied by Defence Secretary Sepala Attygalle and the president's foreign affairs adviser, Bradman Weerakoon.

In New Delhi, however, a spokesman for the Indian Foreign Ministry said no dates for the talks had been fixed. The Indian spokesman, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said he expected Wijeratne to arrive about Friday.

The Sri Lankan official said there have been "positive responses from New Delhi" that India might speed up its March 31 deadline for pulling out the last members of the peacekeeping force, the official said.

But the Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman said: "I don't know, really, what they're basing that on."

The Indian government invited both Wijeratne and Tillekeratne, who is the second-highest official in Sri Lanka's Foreign Ministry, to New Delhi for talks this week. Indian officials in Colombo and New Delhi said.

Indian soldiers were dispatched to Sri Lanka in July 1987 under an accord signed by Rajiv and Premadasa's predecessor, Junius R. Jayewardene. The peace pact was designed to end a revolt by Tamil guerrillas who sought to create a separate homeland for their ethnic minority in northeastern Sri Lanka.

India initially deployed only 2,000 men to supervise a surrender of arms by Tamil fighters. But the largest Tamil militia reneged on the pact and started fighting the Indians.

New Delhi's involvement in the internal affairs of its small neighbours escalated with the peacekeeping force rising above 100,000 men at its peak.

In 1989, Indian troops withdrew in phases from six of the eight districts where they had been based. An estimated 25,000 remain.

At least 17,000 people have been killed since the Tamil insurrection began in 1983. About 11,000 people, including 1,100 Indian soldiers, were killed in the northeast where most Tamils live.

## Aquino revamps cabinet, faces daunting problems

MANILA, Jan 1, (Reuters): President Corazon Aquino has revamped her cabinet to steer the Philippines into the 1990s, but faces daunting problems from a coup-fractured economy, a divided military and a long-running communist insurgency.

On the eve of the new decade, Aquino announced sweeping changes in her cabinet team in a bid to revitalise her government following the sixth coup attempt against her in almost four

years.

Many politicians predict new efforts to topple her unless the new cabinet can make real improvements in the running of the country of 60 million people.

With two years of her presidential term left to run, Aquino faces a crucial period as she launches talks this month on the future of US military bases in the Philippines.

"Already, even Aquino's once most committed supporters are wondering

how long she will last," said Manila Times columnist Sheila Coronel in a commentary on yesterday's cabinet reshuffle.

"They point to the uncollected garbage, the chaotic traffic, the power shortages, and long for an iron hand that will make daily life more sane.

"For the truth is this government gives democracy a bad name, so that the public mind associates it with corrupt relatives, gun-toting legislators

(and) endless congressional investigations," Coronel declared.

The independent daily Malaya said in an editorial today that despite the reshuffle the final responsibility lay with Aquino herself, the 56-year-old widow catapulted to office by a 1986 popular revolt against former dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

"In the end, it all falls on her shoulders: unless she leads and initiates, all she will have is more of the same con-

fusion and non-direction that has marked her administration," the paper said.

In a New Year pastoral message, the influential Roman Catholic Archbishop of Manila, Cardinal Jaime Sin condemned the early December coup attempt in the Philippines, but urged the government to initiate urgent and radical reforms.

"Our government ... must get its act together, or all of us may forfeit the

hard-won constitutional democracy which is now ours," Sin declared.

Army rebels who staged the sixth and most bloody attempt to overthrow Aquino on Dec 1-7 accused her of tolerating corruption, being indecisive, failing to provide leadership to the country and being soft on communism.

Coup leader cashiered colonel Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan urged Aquino to step down in favour of a new, military-backed government.

## Revellers ignore rain in New York

(Continued from Page 1)

"solidarity, co-operation and accord."

"The necessity to combine socialism with democracy has again been vigorously reaffirmed in the dramatic events that occurred in Berlin, Sofia, Prague and Bucharest," Gorbachev said.

Chinese communist party leader Jiang Zemin said yesterday that socialism alone will continue in his nation as China works to maintain social stability.

"With a stable society, we can do things better," he said in a New Year's eve interview broadcast on China's central television. "The economy can develop, people can live in peace and prosperity, and their life can be improved."

"We have paid some price and gained experience as to how to persist in the socialist orientation and how to fight bourgeois liberalization," he said. "Through this kind of tempering, our party has become more mature."

In the United States, merrymakers tossed confetti, squawked horns and popped champagne corks and orchestras dusted off the sheet music for another rendition of "Auld Lang Syne" to ring in 1990 and a new decade.

Police estimated 200,000 revellers ignored daylong rain and packed Times Square in New York, chanting in unison to count down the last seconds of the 1980s as they watched a lighted ball drop in a pool, just as it has most New Year's eves since 1907.

In South Africa, leading newspapers yesterday said that reforms by President F.W. De Klerk in his first 100 days in office make 1990s a time of hope.

"In the coming decade, there should be no doubt in the minds of all South Africans that blacks will at last take their full place in representative parliamentary politics and government," the Sunday star of Johannesburg said in an editorial.

Two Italians were killed, one a 10-year-old boy, and nearly 800 people injured when Italy celebrated the New Year with an explosion of fireworks and gun shots.

The boy, Nello Capuano, was killed today when a homemade firework exploded in his hands on the island of Ischia of Naples, police said.

Antonio de Massis, 46, died when a stray bullet hit him as he watched fireworks last night from the balcony of his flat in the southeastern town of Foggia.

The Interior Ministry put the national injury toll from burns and other wounds, including from bullets, at 779, slightly higher than the previous year, when no deaths were reported.

More than two million Japanese, hoping to start the year of the horse on an auspicious note, thronged Tokyo's Meiji shrine today in long lines that started at midnight of New Year's Eve, police said.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad urged Malaysians today to practice religious tolerance.

Of Malaysia's 17 million people, 55 per cent are Malays, who are almost all Muslims; 37 per cent are Chinese, who are mainly Buddhist and Christian, and almost all the rest are Indians, most of whom are Hindus.

In a New Year speech at a parade and fireworks display at independence square in downtown Kuala Lumpur, jammed with more than 20,000 people, Mahathir said Malaysians should have respect for each other's religious beliefs.



**Protest at festivities**

Demonstrators picketed Delhi's luxury hotels on New Year's Eve, chanting that India's elite was feasting while 80,000 people saw in 1990 from makeshift homes on city's pavements.

But most of the guests who had paid up to \$175 a head for the evening's entertainment had already arrived in their luxury cars and swept inside by the time the protesters arrived to sing in derision.

Police held back the demonstrators, many wrapped in blankets against the damp mid-winter cold.

A few guests watched from the windows of one skyscraper hotel as the protesters waved banners denouncing the 'vulgar' partying and the bribes which India's new government says were paid to officials in a 1986 arms deal.

### Two-week death toll rises to 60

## Bangladesh shivers

DHAKA, Jan 1, (AP): Eight more people have died of exposure to the chilly weather gripping northern Bangladesh, bringing the death toll in the past two weeks to 60, newspapers said today.

In neighbouring India, at least 61 people have died of cold in the same period.

Iftaque, an independent Dhaka daily, said six people died Sunday in the Panchagarh district where temperatures dropped to 2.5 degrees Celsius (36 Fahrenheit), the lowest in three decades.

Two people died of the cold in Jaspurbar district, according to Saptguru, another independent Bengali-language newspaper.

Most of the cold wave victims had no homes and were sleeping on the ground.

## New Year bad luck for Pakistani merry-makers

ISLAMABAD, Jan 1, (Kuna): Islamic fundamentalists and extremists scared away merry-makers and fun-lovers from posh hotels, swank restaurants and lively recreation spots on the New Year's Eve across Pakistan, depriving them of their traditional celebrations.

All the five-star and four-star hotels, glamorous restaurants and gaudy clubs, closed for days as places of entertainment, fun and merriment remained closed to New Year revellers last night in provincial cities of Pakistan, especially Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Islamabad and Peshawar in response to calls by extremist religious organisations.

These organisations had warned by posters, leaflets and

by telephone calls that if celebrations were held as before, these places will be blown up.

Some of the establishments, scared of these threats, announced through advertisements that there would be no celebrations on Dec 31 night and backed it up by hanging warning notices at gates plus deployment of extra-security measures.

In recent years, particularly last year, the New Year revelers who included extraordinary number of girls, created brawls and ugly scenes at midnight mainly due to excessive boozing.

In Islamabad young boys and girls created scenes in adjoining jungles at dead of night.

## NOW OPEN AFPC SUPERMARKET IN FAHAHEEL

AFPC has opened today a new supermarket in Fahaheel in Al Dabbous Complex, near the Municipality round-about. Fahaheel residents and everyone is welcome to take away fresh fruits, vegetables and a variety of foodstuff available in our new supermarket.

Agricultural Food Products Co.k.s.c



## Sikh strike halts Punjab

AMRITSAR, India, Jan 1, (Agencies): Stores closed and buses and trucks stayed inside depots today in response to a strike called by Sikh militants in Punjab state.

The All-India Sikh Students Federation (Aissf) claimed their strike was successful throughout Punjab, but Punjab's top police official said traffic and business functioned normally in most of the northern state.

However, Amritsar, site of the Golden Temple, the Sikh faith's holiest shrine, appeared virtually shut down by the strike.

The state's director general of police, K.P.S. Gill, said there had been no reports of strike-related violence.

Although New Year's Eve is widely celebrated in India, stores normally are open Jan 1 since New Year's day is not an official holiday in India.

The Sikh students federation, which functions as the youth wing of the movement to create a separate Sikh homeland in Punjab, called the strike to press demands for general amnesty for Sikhs arrested since 1978.

Mrs Gandhi was killed in retaliation for her decision to send the army into the Golden Temple to dislodge armed Sikh separatists. About 1,200 people, mostly Sikhs, were killed in the 1984 raid.

Sikh agitation for independence or autonomy for Punjab exploded into violence seven years ago. Sikh extremists have killed at least 7,500 people in Punjab since 1982.

Five people were killed in the first hours of 1990, Press Trust of India reported.

The news agency said the victim included a Sikh police constable who was dragged out of a New Year's celebration at his family's home in the village of Ratta near Amritsar.

The constable, Jawant Singh, was shot and killed in a field early today.

Although the Sikh radicals initially targeted Hindus in their campaign of violence, in the last few years they have attacked Sikhs who do not support their cause.

The radicals have rarely called strikes to highlight their cause, relying mostly on individual killings at night and occasional massacres.

The police blamed at least 1,821 deaths in 1989 on the extremists in Punjab where Sikhs are in a slight majority.

Political sources said the strike was an Aissf attempt to reassess itself after the rise of hardline Sikhs, two of them contesting from prison cells, won parliamentary seats.

They said the militants, many of them unemployed youths, fear the new legislature will compromise on the demand for an independent homeland.

Several militants were freed as a goodwill gesture by former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi after his Congress Party lost the election.

Singh immediately made a dramatic visit to the Golden Temple, shedding security to voice regret at the 1984 bloodshed there.

"Aissf leaders want to prove their organisation is a force to reckon with," said one Sikh leader who declined to be named.

He said Aissf leader Harprender Singh Sandhu, freed last month after more than five years in prison, wanted nothing short of Khalistan.

"Sandhu wants to assert himself and the strike is one of the means."

Government television said at least eight people were killed by fireworks and stray bullets fired into the air.

Officials at Manila-area hospitals reported 1,640 people were treated for gunshots and fireworks-related injuries, including burns and missing fingers.

Forty-eight of those were wounded by stray bullets, hospital sources said.

In addition, hospitals in



A man writhes in pain after a firecracker exploded on him during New Year celebrations in Manila. (Reuter wirephoto)

**11 die, 2,400 injured**

## Manila greets New Year

MANILA, Jan 1, (Agencies): Filipinos greeted the New Year with a barrage of fireworks and gunshots in the air.

In a New Year's message, President Corazon Aquino urged Filipinos to work for stability, and promised renewed efforts to solve the nation's problems.

On Dec 1, thousands of military mutineers launched the sixth and bloodiest attempt to topple the nearly 4-year-old Aquino administration. Key mutiny leaders, including former Lt Col Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, remain at large and have threatened to continue efforts to oust Aquino.

Amid the New Year's revelry, fireworks accidents triggered at least five fires in the capital and burned down a garment factory in a nearby province, officials said.

Explosions rocked Manila and colourful streamers roared into the sky throughout the night, despite police warnings that they would enforce a ban on private fireworks displays.

A spokesman for the police capital command said there were no reports of arrests.

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### Cory shake-up

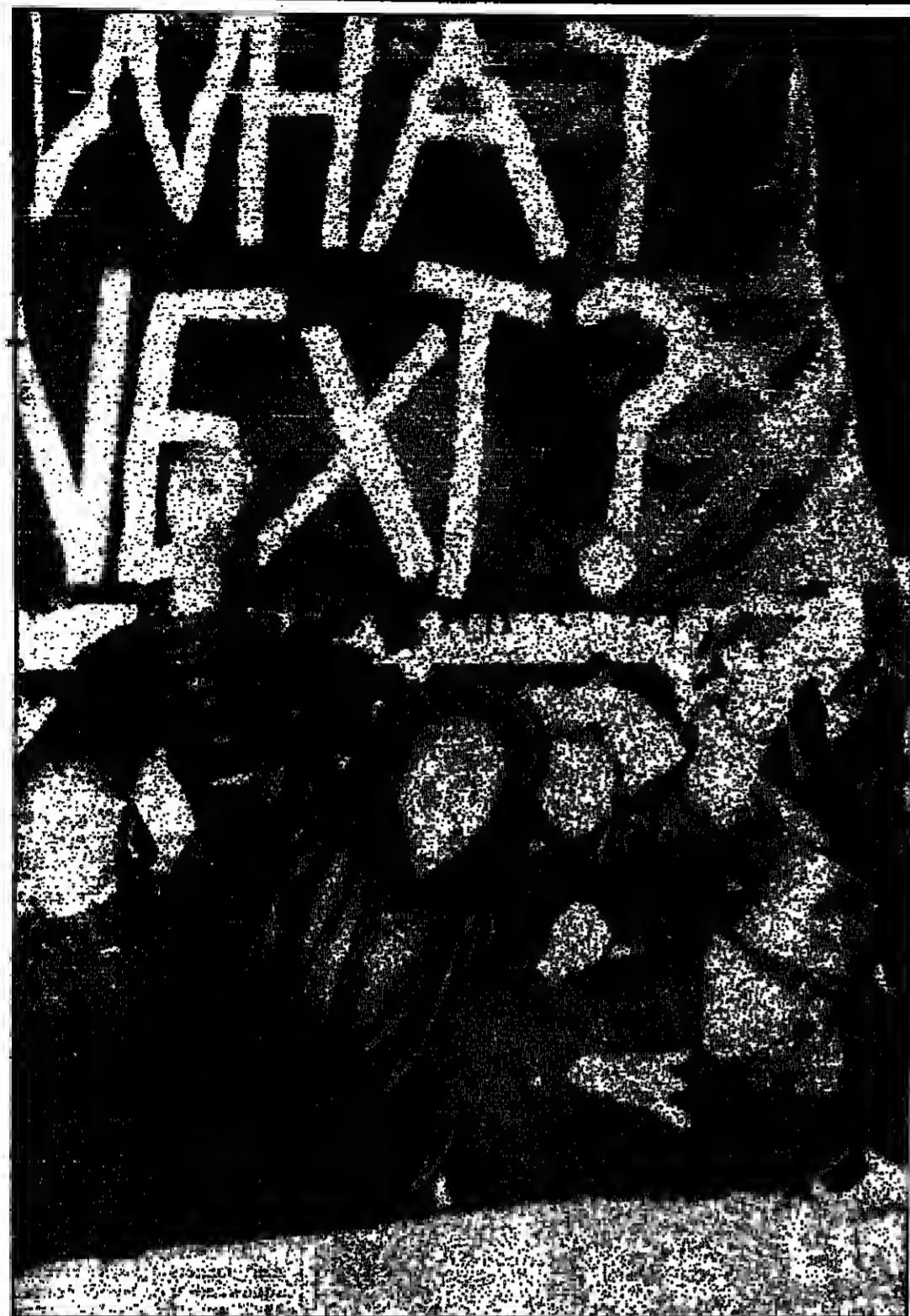
Philippine President Corazon Aquino in televised speech from the presidential palace announces sweeping changes in her cabinet following the coup attempt. Aquino replaced her finance secretary and seven other ministers and fired her intelligence chief. (Reuter wirephoto)

Fourty-eight of those were wounded by stray bullets, hospital sources said.

In addition, hospitals in

## Filipino kidnappers free French priest

MARAWI CITY, Philippines, Jan 1,



## New Year's Eve marked

New Year's revellers celebrate at midnight the beginning of the 1980s in New York City's Time Square on Dec 31. (Reuter wirephoto)

## PEOPLE AND PLACES

**Cicciolina**  
**Topless protest**

ROME, Jan 1. (Reuters): Italy's porn-star turned politician Ilona Staller stood topless in a freezing wind on Saturday to protest at the annual fur trade.

The 37-year-old politician, better known as "Cicciolina" (the fleshly one) stopped the traffic in front of one of Rome's leading furriers by baring her breasts to the press cameras.

"Our movement is pitifully short of young people in their teens and twenties. It's no good having a membership mostly over 40 which in 10 years time will be over 50," he said.

Under a banner reading "better nude than clothed in furs," the 37-year-old politician, better known as "Cicciolina" (the fleshly one) stopped the traffic in front of one of Rome's leading furriers by baring her breasts to the press cameras.

The private ceremony, attended by family and 100 of Cicciolina's closest friends, was held at Judge Alexander's Bronx home. The judge was once a law partner of the new mayor.

Along with Bishop Clinton, father-in-law of the mayor's daughter, were longtime political and personal associates, including former Manhattan Borough President Percy Sutton, Basil Patterson and Congressman Charles Rangel.

Jackson and Tufts, who was in the city for the inauguration festivities, also were guests at the swearing-in ceremony.

The simple ceremony contrasted the finely orchestrated and celebrity-sauced pageantry of the public swearing scheduled for New Year's day when the mayor would repeat the oath of office before an invited crowd of over 12,000.

The ceremonies today were designed to mirror what Cicciolina has called the "gorgeous mosaic" of New York's ethnic and racial groups. The inaugural party will include 200 homeless people invited by the city's first black mayor.

Dinkins, the Manhattan Borough President who defeated three-term incumbent Edward Koch in the September democratic primary, has filled many of his key posts with women and minorities, including Houston Police Brown, who is black and will be New York's Police Commissioner.

Dinkins spent Sunday afternoon at an ecumenical prayer service at the church of the Intercession in Washington heights which featured sermons and prayers by religious leaders of all faiths, including Tufts.

The cocker spaniel — appropriately called Lucky — was entered in the competition by his owner, Phyllis Walkley, or Shanklin, on the Isle of Wight, off England's southern coast. (AP)

LONDON: Composer Andrew Lloyd Webber has paid £10.5 million (\$17 million) for a new home in London's exclusive Eaton Square, the Sun newspaper reported.

The 6-storey, 18th century house has 10 bedrooms, an indoor swimming pool and a billiards room and was advertised as the "finest residential house in Belgravia," the district between Buckingham Palace and Chelsea.

The Sun said the house was once owned by Soraya, ex-wife of international arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi. (AP)

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# Crime to abuse elephants in California

IN California, it will be a crime to abuse an elephant. In Florida, people who want to dive for scallops will have to buy a license. In Illinois, the Tully monster will become the official fossil.

These and scores of other new laws take effect across the United States come the New Year.

In several states, new measures are going on the books that deal with gun control, alcohol, drugs and smoking.

California has a law inspired by the January attack on a schoolyard, in which Patrick Purdy gunned down five children

with an AK-47 semiautomatic assault rifle and then shot himself to death with a handgun. With the new law, military-style assault weapons identified on a special list will be severely restricted. The list contains some 55 pistols, rifles and shotguns that will be barred from manufacture, importation or sale.

Maryland will bar sale of handguns unless they are on a list of weapons approved by the handgun roster board. That law is aimed at so-called "Saturday night specials."

Oregon gun buyers and people seeking

licenses to carry concealed handguns will face stiffer identification requirements and background checks.

In New York, a new law aims to curb under-age drinking. Police will be able to issue a \$50 summons to people under 21 for mere possession, instead of purchase, of alcohol.

Two states are imposing new crackdowns on drunken drivers. In Connecticut, police officers will be permitted to revoke on the spot the license of a driver who fails a blood-alcohol test. In California, it will be a crime

to drive with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 per cent or greater, toughened from .10 per cent.

The elephant law in California stems from the 1988 case of an 8,000-pound (3,628-kilogramme) pachyderm named Dundee at the San Diego wild animal park. The animal was "subjected to two days of beatings which caused apparently severe injuries and trauma to the head area," according to a city attorney's report. Zoological society officials acknowledged the beatings, but said the elephant needed to be disciplined.

## Panther on the prowl

ROME, Jan 1. (UPI): A caged Italian lion tamer believes that an escaped black panther which has eluded police for four days in the Rome suburbs could be throwing tracker dogs off his trail by sleeping in trees during the day.

"We must remain calm," animal trainer Nando Orfei said Saturday as police reported unconfirmed panther sightings from a frightened public in three widely separated outlying areas.

"This panther has given no indication that he wants to attack humans," Orfei said. "And as the search continues, it will be possible to capture him sooner or later because panthers habitually sleep in trees during the day. This causes dogs to lose all trace."

"Also, these animals usually don't stray very far from their territory."

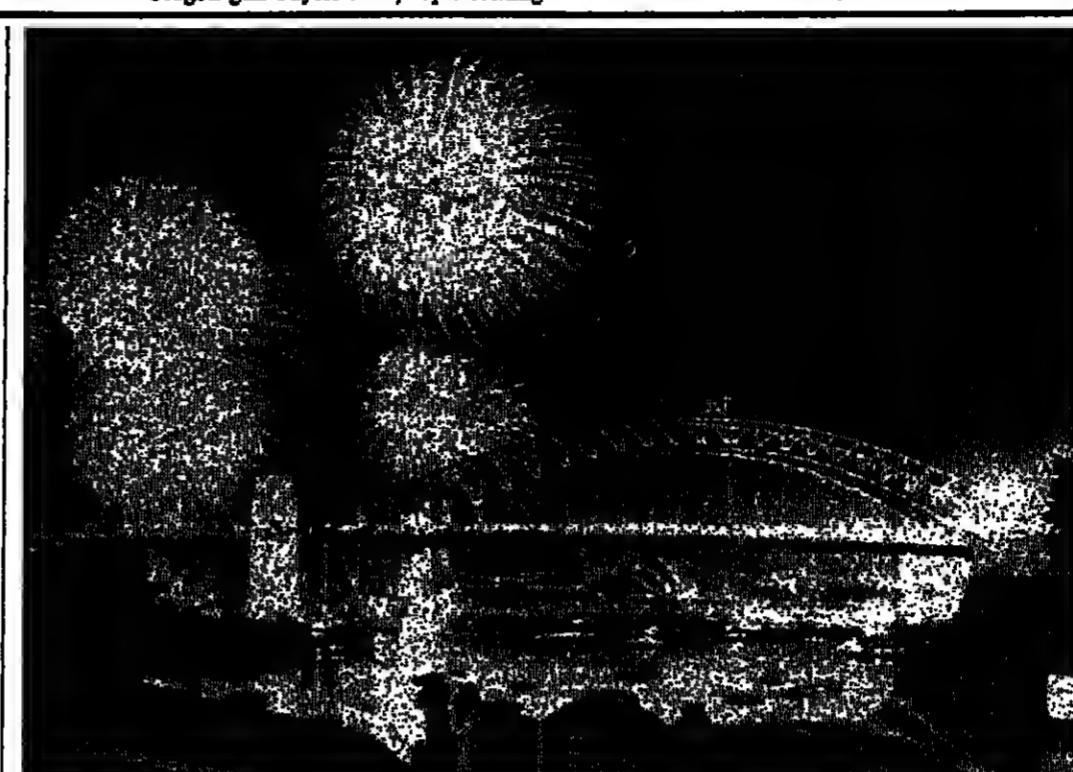
In collaboration with a Rome newspaper, Orfei has set up a "hotline" to field calls from the public about the escaped beast.

Though Orfei believes humans may be safe, farm animals certainly haven't been.

Orfei said that he has received reports of several goats which appear to have been mauled. Several sheep were killed earlier this week, according to police.

Police continued their search for what Orfei described as the 50-60 kg adult panther using helicopters and tracker dogs.

Officials believe that the big cat escaped or was turned loose from a home where it may have been kept as a pet.



Sydney lightens up

Fireworks explode above Sydney's Harbour bridge and opera house Dec 31 as revellers celebrated the New Year on the harbour and in downtown Sydney.

Police said of the 300,000 people who poured into the area to celebrate, there were only 80 arrests. (Reuter wirephoto)

### Arraigned for selling crack cocaine

## Police arrest 9-year-old boy

BOSTON, Jan 1. (AP): Police had tears in their eyes when they booked a 9-year-old boy who allegedly sold crack cocaine to an undercover officer, an official said.

The 3-foot-11 (.94-metre) tall, 95-pound (43-kilogramme) youngster was arraigned in Roxbury district court on juvenile delinquency charges. He was released to the custody of his grandmother, with whom he has been living because his mother is in prison, police said.

The boy's name was not released.

"It was a very sad and traumatic thing to see a little 9-year-old boy sitting in the station arrested for drugs," Deputy Superintendent Robert Hayday said. "I saw some veteran officers with tears in their eyes over this incident."

Among the youngest children arrested around the country on crack charges have been a 10-year-old Detroit boy in August and a 10-year-old boy on Long Island, New York in January.

Boston police said they sought an arrest warrant for the teen-ager whom the 9-year-old identified as the supplier of the crack.

The little boy would go out and sell until the end of the night when he would reach the person who would give him money for the sales work, Hayday said. The boy told police he had been selling for about two weeks.

The 9-year-old had \$68 in his pockets, probably from drug sales, when he was arrested, police said.



Hand over Noriega

About 100 Panamanians hold a New Year's Eve demonstration with candlelight near the Vatican Embassy. They demanded Noriega be handed over to the US. (Reuter wirephoto)

**10 dead,  
15 hurt  
in Zulu  
violence**

CAPE TOWN, Jan 1, (Reuters): Ten people died in a New Year's Eve gun battle between rival groups of South African Zulu tribesmen fighting for control of townships in Natal province, police said today.

A daily police report on political violence said that a further 15 people were wounded in the battle, which erupted when one side tried to set fire to the home of a rival.

Well over 2,000 people have died in the two-year-old power struggle in townships mainly near the Natal provincial capital of Pietermaritzburg and near the Indian Ocean port of Durban.

The struggle pits warriors of the politically moderate Inkatha movement against supporters of the more radical United Democratic Front.

Inkatha hacks Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi and opposes economic sanctions against apartheid. The UDF supports sanctions and backs the policies of the outlawed African National Congress.

Police gave few details of the latest clash, but said nine of the dead and all the wounded were UDF members.

It was not clear from the police statement where in Natal the battle was fought.

**Liberia:** Police and soldiers patrolled the streets of the capital after an apparent plot to challenge President Samuel K. Doe, the leader said in Liberia.

In a live speech broadcast to the nation Saturday, Doe said two groups of what he called dissidents crossed and entered Liberia from Ivory Coast on Dec 24.

One group attacked a customs post in the town of Butuo, killing a sergeant and wounding another soldier and replaced the Liberian flag with an "unknown flag," Doe said.

They were stopped by two battalions of soldiers. Doe said without elaboration.

The other band surrendered after arriving in the central market of the capital. They confessed to planning to destabilise the government, Doe claimed.

The Liberian leader did not disclose the whereabouts or condition of the alleged dissidents but said further details of the plot would be disclosed in coming days.

Meanwhile, police and soldiers were out in force yesterday and roadblocks were posted on most roads leading from the capital into the countryside.

Doe recalled Liberian Ambassador Harold Tarr from Abidjan, Ivory Coast for consultations and said he would inform the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity of the alleged plot.

**Ghana:** Ghanaian leader Flight Lt. Jerry Rawlings named the Deputy Secretary of Health, Dr Mary Grant, to replace the lone woman in his cabinet who was dismissed in October for "continued acts of disrespect."

Grant replaces Amanu Ezin whose appointment was revoked for "disrespect ... as well as other conduct incompatible with revolutionary humility."

## Valley turns to a battleground

### Blacks fight blacks

UMSINDUSI, South Africa, Jan 1, (Reuters): Spreading black-against-black violence that is the despair of the anti-apartheid movement has turned this beautiful South African valley into a battlefield of guns, spears and stones.

The Umsindusi valley, its green slopes framed by majestic flat-topped mountains, is one of the new killing grounds in a three-year-old feud between rival anti-apartheid groups.

Well over 2,000 people have died and up to 100,000 have been made homeless in the fighting between warriors of Inkatha, a powerful political movement supported by traditional Zulus and favoured by big business, and the leftist United Democratic Front (UDF), which is denounced by the government as a communist front.

Both groups want to end apartheid but differ on tactics. Inkatha favours change from within the structures created by Pretoria, a strategy the UDF rejects.

They acknowledge that the violent rivalry harms the black cause in its confrontation with Pretoria. The death toll has accelerated in recent months.

The fighting has raged mainly in urban shantytowns around the cities of Pietermaritzburg and Durban in the Indian Ocean province of Natal and a black tribal territory called KwaZulu.

But human rights campaigners say the bloodshed is beginning to move into isolated rural areas like the Umsindusi valley, which contains the KwaZulu villages of Nyavu and Umsindusi.

Nyavu hacks Inkatha. Umsindusi is sympathetic to the UDF.

#### Explode

"The rural areas are set to explode," John Aitcheson, an adult education specialist at the University of Natal, told a conference on the unrest which he has monitored closely.

Human rights activist Roy Ainslie said the urban townships were "tied up." Allegiances have been formed and most areas are committed one way or the other...now the rural areas are up for grabs."

Signs of violence were everywhere when white assistant parish priest Mark Hay and a Reuter correspondent made a walking tour of the entirely silent villages.

For the home 10,000 Zulus, face each other from opposite slopes across a river running along the valley floor.

Hundreds have fled during the fighting, which killed up to 40 people, badly wounded 100 and wrecked more than 60 homes.

Dozens of huts, rough round shacks built of mud or sand and cement, lay deserted and in ruins. Walls were pock-marked by bullets and shotgun pellets or were smashed in.

Villagers pointed to places where they said friends were hacked, shot, stoned or burned to death. Doors of the few inhabited houses, including Umsindusi's tiny stone church, were barred with corrugated iron sheeting, benches and chairs.

Saying he was on a peace mission, Hay asked a group of Nyavu women to pass word to their village chief that he wanted to mediate talks on ending the violence.

#### Watched

Nyavu warriors standing on buildings high up the valley watched Hay tour the village chief's fire-blackened home, wrecked just days before by a raiding party from Umsindusi.

Umsindusi villagers said the attacks began in earnest in September when an Inyavu raiding party, chanting war songs and battle cries, crossed a bridge over the river armed with spears, sticks, petrol bombs and home-made firearms.

#### Overcrowding eased

## Prisoner amnesty

LAGOS, Nigeria, Jan 1, (AP): President Ibrahim Babangida, in a New Year's address today, declared a general prisoner amnesty expected to result in the immediate release of thousands of inmates.

The order follows criticism from a local human rights group that scores of prisoners had died in the last year due to overcrowded, unhealthy conditions.

Babangida, in a television and radio address broadcast nationwide, ordered freed all who have completed three quarters of their terms, those jailed for minor offences whose sentences do not exceed one year and others jailed for life but who have served more than 10 years.

The president also ordered released those awaiting trial who have been held in prison or police custody for more than a year, except prisoners being held for drug-related crimes and charges of manslaughter, murder, armed robbery and economic sabotage.

## Panama will charge Noriega with murder to break US-Vatican deadlock

PANAMA CITY, Jan 1, (AP): Government plans to charge Manuel Antonio Noriega with murder and other common crimes may break a week-old deadlock between the United States and the Vatican over custody of the deposed强人.

US President George Bush says he wants Noriega behind bars in the United States to stand trial for drug trafficking, and Panamanian President Guillermo Endara, who succeeded Noriega hours after a Dec 20 invasion by US troops, previously indicated he's not too eager to have him in Panama.

But the Vatican, to whose embassy he sought sanctuary Dec 24, has made it clear it is reluctant to give Noriega up to the United States, which it considers a foreign military power in Panama.

It says it considers its embassy here accredited to deal only with the Panamanian government, and it has been insisting that so far Endara has not made a formal request for custody of Noriega.

It has similarly indicated there are the centuries-old traditions of political asylum and church sanctuary to safeguard both of which could be obviated in the case of common crimes — with the Vatican having the privilege of deciding.

So far, the Vatican has granted Noriega temporary asylum and it has not ruled out turning him over to Panama, saying in a statement Saturday it "did not intend to block the course of justice regarding a person accused of

# Move afoot to bring Noriega to justice

## Panama giving conflicting signals

PANAMA CITY, Jan 1, (Agencies): Deposed Panamanian strongman Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega passed the New Year's holiday at the Vatican Embassy, where he has been taking refuge.

Two blocks away, behind the line of American soldiers, a crowd of about 200 people stood in a silent candlelight vigil, saying they came to pray that Noriega be brought to justice.

Panama's top legal officer said yesterday he wants Noriega to stand trial in Panama, but President Guillermo Endara said the country's justice system was incapable of trying him.

A church official said that a solution to the week-old deadlock over Noriega is imminent. The toppled leader remained surrounded by US

soldiers at the Vatican's mission in Panama city he sought political asylum.

Noriega has been at the Vatican Embassy since Dec 24, four days after US troops invaded Panama to capture him and install a civilian government led by Endara.

Panama's Attorney General Rogelio Cruz said yesterday he would ask the Vatican to hand over Noriega to stand trial in Panama. However, a senior European diplomat said Cruz' request could be a first step to turning Noriega over to US custody.



Centam discussion

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and Cardinal Roger Echagüe, personal representative of Pope John Paul II to Central America, met to discuss the current situation in the region. (Reuter wirephoto)



Nuncio talks to US forces

The Papal Nuncio to Panama, Monsignor Jose Sebastian Laboa (in white) chats with an aide at the gate of the Vatican Embassy in Panama. Laboa left the compound to talk to US military officials stationed across the street. (Reuter wirephoto)



Bush visits wounded

President George Bush on Sunday picked his way through hospital beds holding the American wounded on the US Invasion of Panama, thanking troops personally for toppling General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

"Good luck to you. I'm proud of you fellows, very proud indeed," the President told some of the wounded at Wilford Hall Air Force Medical Centre in San Antonio.

Bush elided questions about remarks by Attorney General Rogelio Cruz on Sunday that Panama will ask that Noriega be turned over to the Panamanian government to face criminal charges.

Bush giving a presidential tie to a soldier during his visit. (Reuter wirephoto)

President George Bush (right) said on Saturday that US troops in Panama were guilty of a "screw-up" in searching the home of a Nicaraguan diplomat, but he questioned why the envoy had heavy weapons "up to his eyeballs."

"That shouldn't have happened and that has been explained to the Nicaraguans," Bush told reporters after a golf game in Houston. "It's a screw-up."

But Bush implied that the American error was mitigated by the discovery of rocket launchers, automatic weapons and grenades in the home of Nicaraguan Ambassador Antonor Farrey, which was searched by US troops on Friday.

Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft is shown on the left. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Building collapses

### Worker trapped

WASHINGTON, (UPI): Jan 1, A high-rise parking garage collapsed as it was being torn down, trapping a demolition worker under "tons and tons" of concrete, and rescue efforts were considered all but hopeless when the structure crumpled to the ground earlier today.

The death squads also have killed scores of peasants suspected of sympathising with leftist guerrillas, the administrative security police said in a separate communiqué.

Cruz Aguirre was arrested Friday night on a highway about 35 miles (56 km) south of Bogota, the security police said.

The latest drug-trafficking suspect to be arrested was Jose Manuel Aguirre, chief of the Medellin Cartel's right-wing death squads, who is wanted in Peru, the administrative security police said in a separate communiqué.

Cruz Aguirre was arrested Friday night on a highway about 35 miles (56 km) south of Bogota, the security police said.

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## Lee to quit as PM by year end

SINGAPORE, Jan 1. (UPI): Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, who turned a colonial backwater into a modern industrial giant, announced yesterday, he will step down from the post he has held for 30 years before the end of 1990.

In his New Year's message, the 66-year-old Lee said First Deputy Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong will be his successor, ending speculation that he would immediately pass the post on to his son, Trade and Industry Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

Lee Kuan Yew, who has been in control from the time Singapore achieved self-rule in 1959 and full independence from Britain in 1965, said the tiny country of 2.6 million residents "enters the 1990s with its people and leaders confident that they have pulled together when the going got rough, and can do so again."

"For Asia and the Pacific a sound relationship between America and Japan is crucial to stability and growth," Lee said, noting this "may be more difficult in the future without a common threat from the Soviet bloc" swept by democratic reforms.

### Exhorted

He exhorted his countrymen to "let the 1990s be the decade when Singapore comes of age as a developed country."

Lee, the country's first and only prime minister, has made it clear he is not retiring but has said in the past he will become a senior cabinet minister.

Western observers expect he will retain veto power on all critical decisions and leave the day-to-day running of the country up to his hand-picked second generation of leaders, including his 37-year-old son, a high-profile minister.

Although Goh, 48, has said he expects Lee Hsien Loong to eventually follow him in the No. 1 job, he ruled out any interim premiership for himself by making clear he expects to run in the next election in 1993.

"It has been a decade of self-renewal," Lee said of the 1980s. "A new generation has assumed leadership positions in the cabinet, parliament and the public service."

"Before the end of 1990, Goh Chok Tong will take over as prime minister," Lee said, his most explicit statement yet about relinquishing the prime ministry.

Skeptics however recalled that Lee indicated five years ago he would retire at 65.

### Unwavering

Ignoring criticism from human rights groups world-wide and increasing numbers of young Singaporeans, Lee has been unwavering in his conviction that the multi-racial country overwhelmingly dominated by Chinese was too delicate to withstand any opposition strong enough to challenge his People's Action Party.

Those regarded as threats to the national security have been incarcerated without trials in the government detention centre.

Lee has vigorously cracked down on criticism of his government, engaging the foreign press in an unrelenting battle. The circulation of four publications have been hatched for stories on domestic politics.

The Singapore government is currently seeking a contempt of court ruling against the Asian Wall Street Journal.

**China goes it alone**

### Gorbachev blamed for 'disorder'

BEIJING, Jan 1. (AP): Seven months after Deng Xiaoping told Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that their decades-old ideological schism was healed, Chinese leaders are privately accusing Gorbachev's reforms of leading the socialist world astray.

Chinese authorities, in internal documents and closed meetings, reportedly blame Gorbachev and his "new thinking" diplomacy for unleashing the forces that have ended 40 years of communist dominance in Eastern Europe.

Diplomatic sources say China was being careful to avoid a public break with the Soviet Union and other fast-changing socialist states by stressing that China never interferes in the internal affairs of other nations.

A visit to China this week by Valentin Falin, head of the Soviet Communist Party's international department and the highest party official in China since May, went unnoticed in the official Chinese press until his final day meeting with Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin.

Reports on that meeting had Jiang lecturing Falin that socialist reform must "take the right route." The Soviet side had no comment on the talks, and Falin declined even to talk to the Soviet press.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Jin Guihua, asked about Gorbachev's "new thinking" diplomacy that encourages socialist countries to choose their own paths to political reform, said the concept "requires

# Chun testimony cut short by free-for-all

## Ex-president refuses to apologise

SEOUL, South Korea, Jan 1. (Agencies): Former President Chun Doo-hwan yesterday cut short his testimony in Parliament about corruption and abuses during his rule after lawmakers jeered him and shoved each other in several free-for-alls.

One opposition lawmaker raced to the podium where the disgraced former leader was addressing Parliament and shouted, "murderer." Another hurled a wooden nameplate at government lawmakers. One fracas forced a four-hour adjournment of the long-awaited testimony.

"I felt heartbroken that I could not finish my testimony, but I will tell my account of the truth in other ways," Chun told reporters before

departing from the national assembly.

He returned to the Buddhist temple where he has lived in self-imposed exile since leaving office in 1988 after a seven-year term marred by charges of corruption, human rights abuses and misconduct.

Aides said he would not come back to testify.

During the hearings broadcast on nation-wide radio and television, Chun refused to make an outright apology, as opposition parties have demanded, but said he would take "moral responsibility" for wrongdoings under his rule.

He has denied any personal corruption, but 48 of his relatives and associates have been convicted of embezzlement and other crimes.

"I didn't do anything wrong," Chun said.

"It's a lie, it's a lie," one opposition lawmaker shouted as Chun denied almost all charges of corruption, power abuse and misdeeds.

Chun's testimony before about 200 lawmakers and spectators was aimed at bringing calm to South Korean politics, which have been dogged by public demands to reveal the truth behind allegations against his government.

President Roh Tae-woo, Chun's successor and former associate, appealed to South Koreans in a New Year's message yesterday "to put an end to past affairs once the past president apologises for wrong-doings."

Kim Dae-Jung, a two-time presidential candidate and opposition party leader who was sentenced to death under Chun's rule for alleged sedition, was among the spectators at parliament.

The testimony, which lasted more than 12 hours, was interrupted repeatedly by shouting matches that forced adjournments and a virtual free-for-all involving about two dozen legislators.

A melee erupted after opposition legislators angrily accused Chun of lying about his involvement in the crushing of a 1980 civil uprising in the city of Kwangju. About 200 people died and 1,500 were wounded in the uprising, which was suppressed by the military. Chun was a top military general at the time and became president the same year with military backing.

Opposition and government party lawmakers shouted, jeered and shoved each other in a fracas that adjourned the session for almost four hours.

Although no one was hurt when an opposition lawmaker hurled the nameplate, aides hurriedly led Chun away and government party lawmakers later refused to attend the hearing when it was rescheduled.

Chun was criticised by the public and politicians for what they called insincere testimony. Many accused him of perjury.

Mr. Chun showed no sign of repentance. His arrogant attitude would incur the wrath of the people, said spokesman Kim Tae-Shik of the largest opposition party for Peace and Democracy.

The No. 2 opposition group, the Reunification Democratic Party, denounced the ex-president as a "man dreaming in a fantasy land."

Some opposition leaders charge the Kwangju uprising was a scheme by Chun and his associates to seize power.

Chun, reading from a prepared statement, denied he played any role in the military suppression of the uprising. He said, however, troops on the scene had a standing order to open fire if a war situation occurred.

"Romania is a tragic example of a blind leadership which tried to resist change. The human yearning for freedom cannot be suppressed by brute military might," he said.

Thousands of people were killed in Romania last month in a successful uprising against the dictatorial rule of President Nicolae Ceausescu, who was executed after a brief and secret trial.

Other communist governments in Eastern Europe have ceded exclusive power in the face of popular agitation. China, which bloodily suppressed its own pro-democracy student demonstrations in June, has said it will not follow suit.

The Dalai Lama, in a statement issued from his home in exile in the Indian Himalayas, complained that the Tibetan capital, Lhasa, was still under martial law imposed after anti-Chinese demonstrations last March.

More demonstrations in June were put down "with unprecedented violence and brutality," he said.

Reports on that meeting had Jiang lecturing Falin that socialist reform must "take the right route."

The Soviet side had no comment on the talks, and Falin declined even to talk to the Soviet press.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Jin Guihua, asked about Gorbachev's "new thinking" diplomacy that encourages socialist countries to choose their own paths to political reform, said the concept "requires



Tohiki Kaifu, wearing a kimono, practising calligraphy at his official residence. (Reuter wirephoto)



Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko smile during a photo session for the New Year. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Japan pledges support

### New policy for East bloc

TOKYO, Jan 1. (AP): Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu today pledged Japan's support for democratic reforms in Eastern Europe, and said he hoped the changes there would favourably influence Asia.

But "at present I can't see any change in the region," Kaifu said in a televised New Year interview, noting continued tensions on the Korean peninsula and conflict in Cambodia.

Since Asia has different geopolitical characteristics, Kaifu said, it would be an oversimplification to expect a direct transplanting of the reforms being made in Eastern Europe.

He urged China, however, to show some signs to change so that Western countries could lift sanctions imposed on Beijing after its violent crackdown in June on the pro-democracy movement.

For the maintenance of Asian peace, Kaifu said, it is essential that China not be isolated. He said he expected to exchange high-level officials with Beijing by spring, and "Japan has no intention of going back on its pledge to extend new loans."

Since June, Japan has frozen talks on \$10 billion (\$5.7 billion) worth of loans for China. The proposed loan package is crucial to China's 1991-95 five-year economic plan.

Kaifu is to leave Jan 8 for an 11-day tour of seven European nations, including Poland and Hungary. He said he expects new foreign policy initiatives on Eastern Europe after he returns from the trip.

East-West rapprochement would not affect

Japan's security arrangements with the United States, he added.

He said the treaty was not a product of the cold war, and "is not merely a military agreement. It is the basis of a relationship built on trust between the two countries."

The treaty has allowed Japan to avoid becoming a military power that would cause its Asian neighbours to feel threatened, he said.

Kaifu said Japan would continue to insist on the return of a group of northern islands seized by the Soviet Union in the closing days of World War II before a peace treaty can be concluded by the Soviets.

Meanwhile, he said, the two nations should try to expand relations and continue a "persistent and calm" dialogue toward a peace treaty, even though it would take a long time.

On US-Japan trade frictions, he said his government is making "every possible effort" to reduce Japan's stubborn \$50-billion-dollar trade surplus with the United States.

The prime minister said he would decide after returning from Europe on the timing of elections that must be held by summer for the lower house of Parliament. The elections are expected in February.

■ Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu will send an envoy to China in an effort to mend ties that have been strained since Beijing brutally suppressed a pro-democracy movement last June.

## Cambodian rebels urged to quit ranks

BANGKOK, Jan 1. (Reuter): Cambodian President Heng Samrin, whose government is locked in combat with Khmer Rouge and non-communist rebels, today urged guerrillas to leave ranks to avoid the country's destruction.

"Mr. Chun's testimony was nothing but an insult and blackmail to the people," said a statement from Chomnaryon, the largest dissident organisation. "His testimony was full of distorted explanations that will incite public anger."

Some opposition leaders charge the Kwangju uprising was a scheme by Chun and his associates to seize power.

Chun, reading from a prepared statement, denied he played any role in the military suppression of the uprising. He said, however, troops on the scene had a standing order to open fire if a war situation occurred.

"Romania is a tragic example of a blind leadership which tried to resist change. The human yearning for freedom cannot be suppressed by brute military might," he said.

Thousands of people were killed in Romania last month in a successful uprising against the dictatorial rule of President Nicolae Ceausescu, who was executed after a brief and secret trial.

Other communist governments in Eastern Europe have ceded exclusive power in the face of popular agitation. China, which bloodily suppressed its own pro-democracy student demonstrations in June, has said it will not follow suit.

The Dalai Lama, in a statement issued from his home in exile in the Indian Himalayas, complained that the Tibetan capital, Lhasa, was still under martial law imposed after anti-Chinese demonstrations last March.

More demonstrations in June were put down "with unprecedented violence and brutality," he said.

Reports on that meeting had Jiang lecturing Falin that socialist reform must "take the right route."

The Soviet side had no comment on the talks, and Falin declined even to talk to the Soviet press.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Jin Guihua, asked about Gorbachev's "new thinking" diplomacy that encourages socialist countries to choose their own paths to political reform, said the concept "requires

Suharto warns of turmoil

JAKARTA, Jan 1. (Reuter): President Suharto, with a watchful eye on the turmoil in Eastern Europe and parts of Asia, urged Indonesians yesterday to make sure their hopes for change do not create instability.

Suharto, in a year-end speech to the nation, said development in Indonesia would "create new aspirations and new forces" in society that must be channelled in a constructive way.

"They should not hamper our development or weaken the nation's unity," he said.

In an apparent reference to changes in the East bloc, Suharto said: "We thank God, because several countries and several regions recently have fallen victim to turmoil...we are concerned about that."

During his 23-year rule, Suharto has presided over growing national unity in Southeast Asia's largest country and brought the economy from the brink of ruin.

The 68-year-old president, who came to power with the support of the military after an abortive coup attempt in 1965, has given no clear hint if he plans to stay on after his current five-year term ends in 1993 and there is no obvious successor.

## HK Chinese encouraged to stay: Howe

LONDON, Jan 1. (AP): Deputy Prime Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe said yesterday that Britain is doing the "right thing" by offering special residence rights to key Hong Kong Chinese and rejected China's criticism of the plan.

Britain said it will offer residence rights to 50,000 households, or about 225,000 people, in an effort to prevent the most talented citizens from emigrating before China takes over the British colony in 1997.

On Saturday, China criticised the plan as a "gross violation" of its agreement with Britain and threatened unspecified retaliatory action.

"I have no doubt that we are doing the right thing towards the fulfilment of the joint declaration which we

and the Chinese government signed," Howe said.

"What we are telling them is that you may become citizens of the United Kingdom but you do not need to come here to achieve that," he said on British Broadcasting Corp. Radio. "Our object is to encourage them to remain as part of the dynamic year of Hong Kong."

The plan also has been criticised by some members of Parliament. Margaret Thatcher's governing Conservative Party, Howe said in response to their concerns: "Some of them (the 225,000 Hong Kong residents) may well come but we do not think they are all likely to come by any means."

## INTERNATIONAL

**Aussie quake toll is now 12**

**NEWCASTLE**, Australia, Jan 1. (UPI): Rescue workers sifted the rubble for survivors following Australia's worst earthquake.

located the bodies of two more victims yesterday, and engineers said as many as 50 buildings may have to be demolished or undergo extensive repairs because of structural damage.

The discovery of the two bodies in the wreckage of the Newcastle Workers' Club brought the death toll from Thursday's quake to 12. Nine bodies have now been recovered from rubble of the collapsed social club, where patrons were playing bingo and slot machines when the quake jolted the region.

Police spokeswoman Jane Ellis said workers uncovered the last buried area of the social club and located the two bodies yesterday morning. The bodies of the two men had not yet been identified. Nine victims, most of them elderly, have been identified so far, and all but one were area residents.

The earthquake, which measured 5.5 on the open-ended Richter scale, hammered a wide area of New South Wales state on Thursday, causing extensive damage to Newcastle, a steel city of one million people located 100 miles (160 km) north of Sydney. Authorities said about 170 people were injured in the quake, whose epicenter was located 3 miles (5 km) west of Newcastle.

Ellis said structural engineers estimated that 50 multi-storey buildings, most of them in downtown Newcastle, will have to be demolished or undergo extensive repairs because of structural damage from the quake.

She said authorities had received official notification of damage to 4,000 different buildings since the quake. Because of the extensive damage, the inner city area was not expected to be reopened until at least mid-January.

Aftershocks struck the Newcastle area late Friday, causing terrified residents to run into the streets. Police said on Saturday there were no reports of damage or casualties following the aftershocks.

Seismologists said the expected aftershock, which lasted about three seconds, registered 1.5 on the open-ended Richter scale and was felt in the Newcastle suburbs of Adamstown and Charlestown at 8:13 pm local time.

Many people ran from their homes and elected to spend the night outdoors, authorities said. Seismologists said more aftershocks were expected in the area.

Meanwhile, thousands of residents visited relief centres set up in high schools and Salvation Army centres for emergency rations of food and temporary shelter, relief groups said Saturday.

• A strong earthquake struck yesterday near the north coast of Papua New Guinea, the US Geological Survey said. There were no immediate reports of possible casualties or damage.

The tremor was centered about 230 miles (370 km) northwest of Lae and east of Wewak, or 420 miles (675 km) northwest of port Moresby. USGS spokesman Don Finley said from suburban Washington.

**Cigarette displays banned**

**SINGAPORE**, Jan 1. (UPI): A tough new anti-tobacco law prohibiting the display of pictures of cigarettes or their brand names on vehicles, telephone booths and counters went into effect today as part of Singapore's drive to become the first nation of non-smokers.

Tobacco companies kicked off New Year's day by restringing fleets of cars and vans to remove logos, trademarks and names while shopkeepers pulled down posters advertising an array of brands.

"I didn't even put them up," said Mohd Ali Bin Mohideen, a 60-year-old proprietor of a store plastered with cigarette advertisements. "The salesman did it."

The latest ban prohibits the display of pictures of tobacco products or their brand names on vehicles, signboard notices, posters, stickers, calendars, ashtrays, telephone booths and counters. It also halts the sales promotion and distribution of free samples of cigarettes and other tobacco products as well as their packaging with other goods.

Even the awarding of cigarettes as prizes in any lottery, game or competition has been stopped.

**NEWS IN BRIEF****AMERICA**

**2 teens charged:** Two teens arrested for allegedly shooting and seriously wounding a man in a Queens parking lot have now been tied to a Christmas drive-by shooting that killed a pregnant woman and another youth, police said Saturday.

Eric Reed, 17, and Dwayne Faust, 16, both of Queens, were picked up after the second shooting early Friday and later charged as adults, with murder in the Monday night slaying on the street outside the drug-plagued south Jamaica houses project, police said. (UPI)

**Environment favoured over economy:** A newspaper poll indicates that Americans want to clean up the environment even if economic prosperity suffers.

Respondents to the Los Angeles Times' year-end poll published Monday also opposed legalizing drugs by a 2-1 margin.

And majority of those surveyed favoured deep defence spending cuts in light of changes in Eastern Europe, but there was little agreement on how to divide the "peace dividend." (AP)

**Man charged harassing pilots:** A man who said small plane buzzing over his desert home had drowned out his portable radio has been charged with using a 4-foot-(1.2-metre)-square mirror to blind sunlight into pilots' eyes.

Alcide Chaisson, 69, who lives in a trailer near Crystalaire airport, was cited Friday for obstructing a night patrol, Los Angeles county deputy district attorney Cynthia L. Ulrig said.

"It could be very hazardous," Ms Ulrig said. "They were being blinded as they landed and took off." (AP)

**Oldest Texas cowboy dies:** The oldest working cowboy in Texas died the way he wanted—stretched out on the prairie grass with his boots on, friends said.

Thomas Everett Blasingame, 91, was found lying on his back in a Texas panhandle field, his saddled horse standing nearby by fellow cowhands at the Ja Cattie Co. ranch near Clarendon.

"If he had written it down on paper, he wouldn't have changed a word," about how he wanted to die, said Bruce McElroy, ranch foreman.

Johnny Farrah, ranch business manager, said Blasingame was riding a young horse he was training just before he died. (UPI)

**Stricken freighter sinks:** A Greek freighter sank off Hawaii Sunday after coast guard rescuers and the crew abandoned the ship because rough weather had foiled their efforts to save the ship.

The 620-foot (189-m) Vuica, registered in Kingston, St Vincent, went down at 1333 GMT Sunday about 750 miles (1,200 km) northeast of Oahu, coast guard petty officer Dennis Hubbard said.

Three coast guard rescuers and half of the 28-member crew who had stayed aboard to try to save the ship abandoned the vessel Saturday night.

"Everyone is now on the (coast guard) Cutter Saras, safe and sound," Hubbard said. (UPI)

**Baby panda turns brown:** A four-month-old panda called Bao Bei whose black fur has turned brown may spawn a new sub-species of brown giant pandas, according to zoological experts in China's ancient capital of Xian.

Born black and white like other examples of the rare animal found in the wild only in southwest China, the baby panda's black fur changed to brown 117 days after its birth on August 31 at Xian's zoo, the New China News Agency reported on Monday. Its mother's fur was also brown and white. (NCNA said.)

**Malaysia to build:** A \$74-million (200-million ringgit) telecommunications tower expected to be the world's third tallest structure will be built in Malaysia, Information Minister Mohamed Rahmat said Saturday.

Speaking to reporters after Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad visited the prime-minister-owned radio-television building, Rahmat said the 420-metre (1,378-foot) Kuala Lumpur Tower, to be completed in five years, will house a telecommunications centre.

Mohamed said the government had agreed to construct the tower and was awaiting approval from the telecommunications company of Malaysia to take part in developing the project jointly with his ministry. (AP)

**Legendary surgeon dies:** Paul-Henri Grauvin, the honorary chief doctor of the French Army whose firesides work as the front-line surgeon in the disastrous Indo-China battle of Dien Bien Phu in 1954 made him a national hero, died at the Val-de-Grace Military Hospital Saturday, city officials said.

Grauvin, 75, was head of the French army's surgery section in Indo-China from 1946 to 1954. He was taken prisoner May 7, 1954, but was quickly released on orders of Ho Chi Minh.

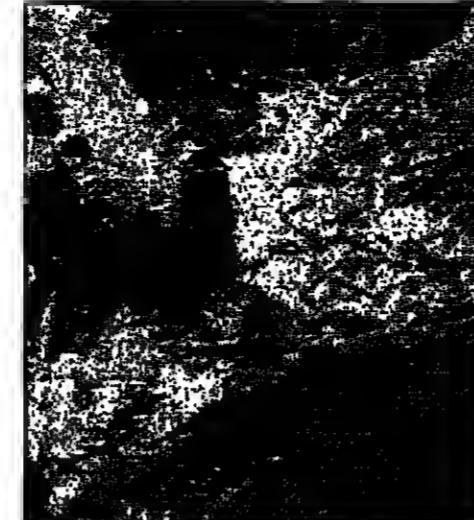
During the battle of Dien Bien Phu that started March 13, 1954, Grauvin worked tirelessly in his underground front-line operating room, amputating limbs from hundreds of foreign journalists and other French servicemen under increasingly difficult conditions as the Viet Minh victory drew closer.

(UPI)

**Afghan novelist dies:** Afghani novelist Etienne le Roux, leader of rebel intellectuals among the first to criticize their country's white establishment, has died of lung cancer at age 67, a hospital said Sunday. Le Roux, an attorney and a farmer before he turned to writing, died at a university hospital in the central city of Bloemfontein.

In the 1960s, he was foremost among "rebel"

Afghani writers who challenged the conservative foundations of Afghani culture and attacked the white domination of the black majority.

**Hotel blown up**

A two-star hotel closed for the winter blew up in a spectacular explosion that police investigators believe to be the work of organized crime. No one reported any injuries.

Police said bombers used bottles of gas and 100 kilograms (220 pounds) of unidentified explosives to level the U Riposo Hotel Saturday night in the town of Sagone on Corsica's western coast.

The explosion lit up the night sky, smashed foundations of the 22-room, three-storey hotel and hurled rubble from the walls across the street, police said. No injuries were reported, they added.

The blast was the latest in a series of attacks related to the hotel. Jean Renouard, son of the present manager, was shot to death Aug. 7. The previous manager, Jean Dupuis, was killed similarly in 1985.

**UN drive**

**Climb atop**

LONDON, Jan 1. (UPI): Anyone on Earth with a pair of hiking boots was challenged today to "Climb for the world" up the mountain of his choice by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

On Sept. 18, declared the International Day of Peace by the United Nations, climbers from all 159 countries in the world body are invited to hold "summit" meetings atop their local mountains in a unique display of international co-operation.

"Climb for the world's" centerpiece will be a multiple ascent of Switzerland's most formidable Alpine peak, the Eiger, by five teams of two climbers from each continent on Earth.

Dos Santos laid down the establishment of a national army, incorporating both government and UNITA forces, as a condition for negotiations. (UPI)

**Afrikaner novelist dies:** Afrikaner novelist Etienne le Roux, leader of rebel intellectuals among the first to criticize their country's white establishment, has died of lung cancer at age 67, a hospital said Sunday. Le Roux, an attorney and a farmer before he turned to writing, died at a university hospital in the central city of Bloemfontein.

In the 1960s, he was foremost among "rebel"

Afrikaner writers who challenged the conservative foundations of Afghani culture and attacked the white domination of the black majority.

His work, rich in symbolism and allegory, was banned here for years.

**Sweeping to clear image**

Members of the People's Liberation Army sweep a railway station in the southern city of Guangzhou Dec 30. The army conducts "help the people" campaign across China to better their image after the crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in June. (Reuter wirephoto)

**Latin America**

**De Mello defeats Da Silva:** The government Saturday formally declared Fernando Collor de Mello the winner of Brazil's first free presidential election in 29 years.

Collor de Mello, 40, of the right-wing National Reconstruction Party, narrowly defeated socialist Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, 49 per cent to 44 per cent. The election was held Dec 17.

"I am sure God will give me the strength to govern this country with open arms, together with the judiciary and the congress, whose participation is indispensable," said Collor de Mello after receiving a presidential diploma from the supreme electoral court during a morning ceremony.

Collor de Mello had 35,089,998 votes after 100 per cent of the 70.26 million ballots cast were tallied, supreme electoral court President Jose Francisco Rezek said.

Da Silva, of the radical left Workers Party, received 31,076,364 votes. (AP)

**Africa**

**Angolan peace plan:** Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos announced a new peace plan to end a 14-year civil war in the country, offering free elections within five years but demanding recognition of his Marxist government.

In his new year message in the Angolan capital of Luanda, Dos Santos outlined a new 8-point peace plan, including proposals for a cease-fire with rebels of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, known as Unita, Portuguese media reported.

The first two points of Dos Santos' peace plan demand that Unita recognize the sovereignty of Angola and the legitimacy of his Marxist MPLA government.

He said the plan would be implemented in a New Year address.

But the countries of East Europe must achieve full democracy first, he said in a television broadcast on the eve of the new decade.

"I didn't even put them up," said Mohd Ali Bin Mohideen, a 60-year-old proprietor of a store plastered with cigarette advertisements. "The salesman did it."

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# Berlin party goes sour

EAST BERLIN, Jan 1. (Reuters): Berlin's wild New Year celebration at the Berlin Wall turned sour when a giant video screen collapsed onto a crowd early this morning, injuring more than 100 people.

Police also said they found a 24-year-old West German dead along East Berlin's majestic boulevard Unter Den Linden, but his death did not appear to be connected with the collapse.

A total of 300 people were injured, 80 of them taken to hospitals in East and West Berlin with cuts, broken bones and head wounds, West Berlin police said.

It was a sad end to the party of a lifetime, with East Germans clambering on the border wall that hemmed them in until just seven weeks ago, drinking, shouting and kissing their fellow Germans from the West.

## Toast

Earlier police statements reported by the East German media suggested another man had died in a huge crowd of people surging forward to toast the peaceful revolution in East Germany and the opening of its borders.

But the police later said they could confirm only one death.

At the stroke of midnight champagne and fireworks rained down on the 400,000-strong crowd on the 200-year-old symbol of German unity that was sealed to the public for 28 years until only 10 days ago.

Some, defying police orders, managed to climb to the top of the imposing gate up scaffolding supporting the video screen. Just after 1.30 am the scaffolding gave way.

Red Cross workers struggling through the crush and the carpet of broken glass found scores of injured.

Shortly beforehand, police had found a young West Berliner dead outside the Soviet embassy 200 metres (yards) away. He was not named, nor did police give a cause of death.

East German guards immediately closed border crossings at the gate, bringing an abrupt halt to the celebrations.

In Hamburg, West Germany, 10 policemen were seriously injured and a patrol car was destroyed when masked anarchists rioted during a New Year march, police said.

Just before midnight about 1,000 people, many of them masked members of an anarchist group called Autonomes, pelted police with stones and shot firework rockets at them after they had been ordered to remove their masks.

More disguised rioters ambushed police who answered a fake emergency call in the city's port area.

The rioters stole a submachine-gun and ammunition from the patrol car, which they pushed over and set on fire. The fighting was eventually broken up when 100 police arrived and threw tear gas into the crowd.

Two Autonomes were arrested, police said.

As Berlin revellers nursed their hangovers later this morning, street cleaners set to work clearing a path through ankle-deep debris for a New Year's day fun-run spanning both sides of the city in which some 2,000 Berliners took part.

A new shift of border guards arrived on duty at dawn to find that their once feared watchtowers had been broken into and that the eastern side of the wall was daubed with graffiti.

## Souvenir

The holes, made by souvenir hunters armed with hammers, seemed to support a prediction made by West Berlin Mayor Walter Momper last night that the wall could be torn down within weeks.

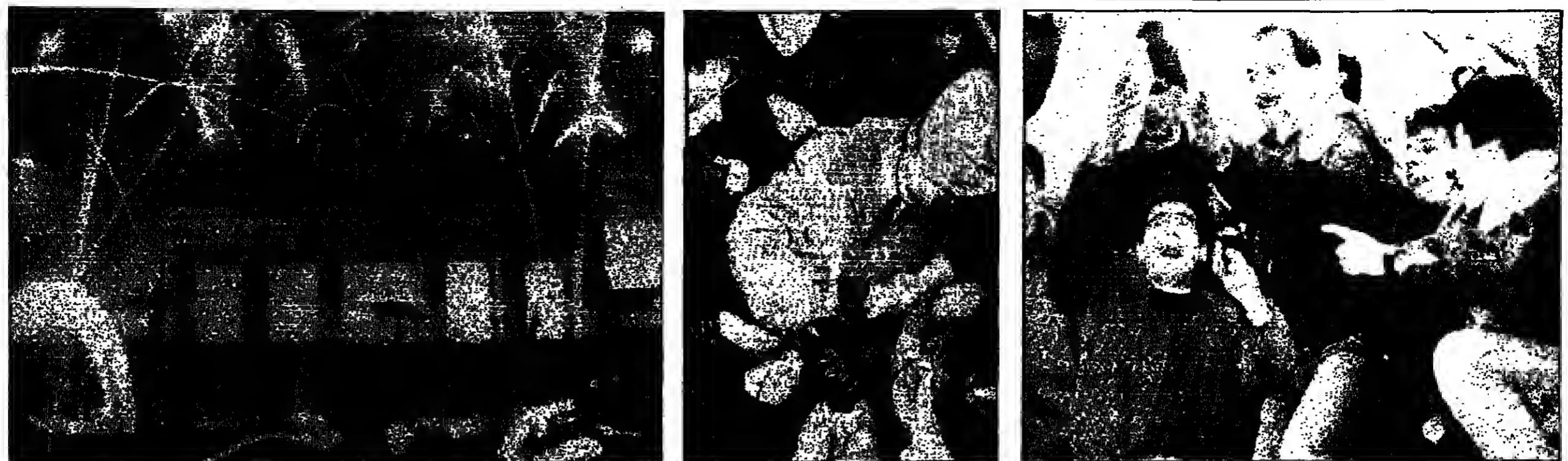
"If East Germany does not tear it down, everyone in the West, the 'wall woodpeckers,' will take it away bit by bit," he told a television interviewer standing on top of the wall.

Around him some revellers sobbed with joy and embraced complete strangers.

Others, staring at the packed square around the gate and the explosion of colour and light above its imposing arches, rubbed their eyes to make sure it was really happening.

"Look at this — champagne, fireworks, and the Brandenburg Gate I still can't quite believe it," said Detlev Kriemer from Dortmund in West Germany.

Even the East German border guards, who only a few weeks ago stood doctored in their watch towers and shot at anybody trying to cross to the West, had been in a mood to celebrate.



**Wildest night at the wall**

CHAMPAGNE and fireworks rained down on tens of thousands of Germans revelling in the wildest, most ecstatic New Year's party of their lives at Berlin's Brandenburg Gate today.

Breaking every imaginable taboo, East Berliners clambered on to the wall that hemmed them in until just seven weeks ago, drinking, shouting and kissing fellow Germans from the West.

Soma revellers sobbed with joy and embraced complete strangers to wish them a happy New Year.

Others, staring at the packed square around the Brandenburg Gate and the

explosion of colour and light (left) above its imposing arches, rubbed their eyes to make sure it was really happening.

On the stroke of midnight the whole

area was shrouded in smoke from the hundreds of firecrackers, rockets and catherine wheels that whizzed and burst into the air.

"Wall woodpeckers" were taking

away the wall bit by bit. Armed with hammers they chipped away blocks and got them sealed by East German border guards (right and centre) for authenticity. (Reuter wirephoto)

# Romania bans Securitate

**Death penalty abolished: private property restored**

BUCHAREST, Jan 1. (AP): Romanians celebrated New Year's Day free of the oppressive presence of the Securitate after formal abolition of the special police force that served the late dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Romanian radio reported no overnight incidents of sniper fire or clashes between the army and die-hard Securitate units, which suggested a slow return to normality after two weeks of unrest that is believed to have claimed thousands of lives.

Hundreds of Securitate agents were still believed armed and at large today, despite orders last week by the provisional government to surrender.

Interim President Ion Iliescu formally announced the abolition of Securitate late yesterday in a New Year's address, the East German news agency ADN reported from Bucharest.

Announcement of Securitate's dismantling after 41 years was preceded by the detention of the agency's former head, Julian Vlad, along with three ranking members of the ministry controlling the police, the Romanian state news agency Agerpres reported. It did not specify what charges, if any, the four face.

Iliescu also said that his interim government was planning to introduce the five-day work week, reducing work days by one. He reiterated the leadership's commitment to the introduction of multi-party democracy after more than four decades of communist rule, including 24 years under Ceausescu.

Shortly before Iliescu spoke in a national radio and television broadcast, Deputy Foreign Minister Corneliu Bogdan told reporters that "the Communist Party is dead," in Romania.

At least six new political parties have emerged since Ceausescu was overthrown Dec 22 by a nation outraged over the massacre by security forces of hundreds of people in the western city of Timisoara participating in an anti-Ceausescu protest.

The army had joined the protests in toppling Ceausescu. He and his wife Elena were summarily tried and executed Christmas Day, convicted of "genocide" and other grave crimes.

Iliescu is a former Communist Party secretary who fell out of favour with Ceausescu for speaking his mind but has the political experience that dissident intellectuals and other former opposition figures lack.

He also announced:

■ Abolition of the death penalty, saying the "two dictators were the last who deserved this fate."

■ Re-establishment of private property, with farmers again permitted to own 6,000 square metres (about 1.2 acres) of land surrounding their houses. Additional land could be leased, and its yield again sold on the private market, he said, unlike in the past, where the state was formally the only buyer.

■ A moratorium on opulent and wasteful construction projects undertaken by Ceausescu that consumed billions of dollars despite widespread privation at the expense of the country's 23 million people, who suffered for years from widespread food and energy shortages. (AP)

**Secret police flee:** Members of Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu's hated Securitate secret police have fled to Yugoslavia since the beginning of the Romanian uprising two weeks ago, officials said on Saturday night.

Jovo Vuckovic, Deputy Interior Minister of the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia whose borders Romania said 69 people had escaped across the border to Yugoslavia.

Among them were 10 agents of the Securitate whose men have fought on since Ceausescu's overthrow on December 22.

"The competent organs, in co-operation with Romanian authorities, are checking the identities of the refugees," Vuckovic told Belgrade television.

He said a total of 600 refugees had fled from Romania over the past few years. (Reuter)

**PLO-Israel mediation:** A senior Palestinian leader has disclosed that the late Romanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu tried to arrange a secret meeting in Bucharest between Israel and PLO leaders, the Kuwait newspaper Al Sayyadah reported on Sunday.

"He acted as a postman between the PLO and Israel... he liked to play the role. But it always ended in failure because of Israel's intransigence," the newspaper quoted Salah Khalaf as saying in an interview. (AP)

To pay off the country's foreign debt, Ceausescu had in recent years exported Romania's best agricultural products while forcing rationing upon his people. The new government is now opening warehouses and making those items available to the people, as it also increases energy allotments to permit warmer homes.

Bogdan, his country's US ambassador for more than a decade before falling into disfavour in the early 1980s, discounted the danger of communists again assuming undisputed control of the country.

He said members still formally in the party were in the minority in the provisional government, and even those did not consider themselves Communist Party members after the oppressive Ceausescu era.

"I was one of them," he said of the communists. "I will pay for it," he added.

## Shaking hands



An elderly woman begs in Bucharest.



A soldier sits in a guard hut at Bucharest airport. (Reuter wirephoto)

**Ceausescu took a hostage:** Ousted communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife commandeered a car as they tried to flee Romania, held a pistol to the horrified father of three and ordered: "If you want to stay alive, drive."

According to an account of the Ceausescu's December 22 flight in the French daily Liberation on Saturday, the leader and his wife abandoned a helicopter in the countryside.

The couple, travelling in a car with two members of the dreaded Securitate, then kidnapped Nicolae Petrescu in a village near Tirgoviste, a city 70 kms (44 miles) from Bucharest.

Petrescu, a father of three, was washing his car in the street around 2 pm when a vehicle screeched to a stop and a man jumped out, Liberation said. Waving a gun, he hustled Petrescu into his own car and ordered him to drive off.

A few minutes later, after turning a corner, he was told to stop to let the passengers from the other car in.

Nicolae Ceausescu settled next to the terrified driver, his wife scrambled into the back. "If you want to stay alive, drive," Petrescu quoted her as saying, adding that she repeatedly thrust what he believed was a gun at his neck. (Reuter)

**Elena left school at 10:** A school report published yesterday shows that the ruthless wife of ousted Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu left school aged 10 despite her pretensions as an intellectual.

Elena Ceausescu was shot alongside her husband by an army firing squad on December 25 after a popular revolution against their brutal rule.

A photocopy of the 1928 school report signed by her parents was published yesterday in the Romania Libra newspaper.

"These were the first steps of the wonderchild of world science and, it seems, the last," the daily said in a sarcastic commentary.

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## Gulf production, price may go up, predicts Al Hamad

# Next decade will witness sharp increase in oil demand

THE 1990's decade will witness heightened demand for oil resulting in an increase in the supply and price of GCC oil which is estimated to range in production to about 12.5 hpd and sold at a price of \$28-32 per barrel, a senior Kuwaiti official said.

Abdul Latif Al Hamad, chairman and director general of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) speaking at a lecture delivered within the framework of the cultural season of the Gulf and Arab Peninsula Studies Centre on the theme "Future Vision for GCC economies during 1990s" said: "The GCC countries still depend mainly on oil as the major source of national revenue."

The official said that the main

problem of the GCC countries rests on how to go beyond the unilateral economy circle and recommend that the GCC countries should create an economic pattern based on integrating all economic sectors.

Hamad pointed out that the non-oil sectors contribution was increasing according to 1960-1988 statistics. These indicate that there is a relation between oil revenues and the contribution of the non-oil countries. The effect of the oil sector on the other sector can be perceived through the increase in the state expenditure.

The official called for the private sector to play its role towards diversifying national income resources and said

that this sector could realise self-sufficiency away from its dependency on oil.

He disclosed that relevant data confirm that the GCC countries will support investment in non-oil related industries to minimise imports.

Meanwhile, Hamad clarified that there are three major factors which constitute the backbone of the industrialisation process in the GCC countries. The first relates to the strategic industry which is represented by oil and its derivatives, the second deals with oil and gas such as steel, aluminium, copper and cement industry and the third deals with light industries represented by foodstuffs, textiles, medical industries and assembly industries.

He said that the first oil era had witnessed a significant growth in the Gross National Product (GNP) registering an increase from \$14.2 billion in 1972 to about \$67.3 billion in 1973 and peaked by the end of 1982 when the GNP of the member states recorded about \$242.3 billion.

However, during the second oil era, the GNP witnessed a significant retreat and in 1988 revenues amounted to \$129.4 billion with a loss of about 47 per cent compared to the 1981's income.

The GCC countries lost from 1982-1989 about \$858 billion—which equals three fold of the member states current outflows estimated at \$297 billion according to 1987 statistics, the official

said.

He added that Saudi Arabia accounted for the lion's share—estimated at 54 per cent of the GCC total GNP in 1988 compared to 50 per cent in 1975 and 68 per cent in 1981, while UAE was second with 18 per cent in 1988 compared to 14.8 per cent in 1975 and 13.6 per cent in 1981. Kuwait occupies third place with 15 per cent in 1988 compared to 18 per cent in 1975. Shares of Bahrain, Oman and Qatar have increased from 1.6 per cent, 3.1 per cent and 3.7 per cent respectively in 1975 to 2.8 per cent, 5.9 per cent and 4.1 per cent respectively in 1988.

Hamad said that the Arab Gulf countries development is connected with the discovery of oil which played

its significant role after 1973 following the correction of oil prices in international markets. He added: "The GCC countries then recorded incomes which had not been realised even by developed countries' economies. Income soared from \$8 billion in 1972 to \$149.2 billion in 1980 (i.e. in less than one decade with a growth rate of about 44 per cent per annum). This growth has also been reflected directly on the other non-oil sectors.

This sustained growth provided the leverage for an increase in individual incomes from \$1,300 in 1972 to about \$16,400 in 1985. Individual income of the UAE citizen in 1980 averaged \$28,900 per capita.

Speaking of agriculture and food

security in the future, the official said that the problems of this industry are directly related to the scarcity of water.

In this connection, he disclosed that the water desalination process in the GCC countries cost about \$1.8 billion per annum. The desalination costs to cover agricultural purposes will cost about \$3.5 billion, the official said.

Commenting on the general expenditure in the GCC countries, the official said that all these countries are suffering from deficit in their budget as of 1984. This is reflected on the drop in oil revenues. These deficits have been gradually increased and the GCC countries are reluctant to cover this deficit from cash flows invested abroad.

## Pedlars deny theft charges

PEDLARS are usually seen carrying huge suitcases or a cloth bundle filled with goods which include fabrics, ready-made garments and cosmetics and knocking on doors of residential premises in a bid to "hawk" their wares.

Due to the very nature of their "house calls," they are often accused of causing many house thefts by striking deals with housemaids, particularly during the morning period when house owners are away at their jobs.

A local daily raised this issue with a number of pedlars to highlight their opinions towards these accusations.

One of the pedlars said that he had been going around houses selling goods for the last more than 20 years and added that sales used to be much better in the past.

He added that most pedlars entirely depend on these sales to earn their livelihood and they operate on the principle of "low profit with high turnover."

He said that all through his twenty-year career, he had not heard of any complaints, rather, customers welcomed them as their prices were cheaper than the souk and additionally, customers had the goods brought to them at their doorsteps.

He added that due to the nature of their profession, he does not work throughout the year—especially during the period of June, July and August. He said that many of his customers are loyal and refuse to shop for anything, but essentials.

Abdel Karim, also working as a pedlar for the past 20 years said that he prefers selling goods during the afternoons, because most customers are home at that time of the day and the weather is cooler particularly during hot summer days.

He said that he prefers to shout out his wares, rather than ring door bells which causes inconvenience and annoys customers. He added that he works on a small margin (100 fils per item sold) and is willing to take back any defective goods.

Karim indicated that he does not have any special area, but goes around all areas of Kuwait. He stressed that trust between him and buyers is the main bond in this job.

Salem Omar told that there were about 300 pedlars working in this field and work in a unified manner. They purchase their goods at wholesale prices from Al Safat Souk and customers are generally of the middle-income group.

All pedlars interviewed, vehemently denied that they were thieves or connive with maids to steal from the homes they visit.

## Outdated food

### INSPECTORS assigned to Area Four in Farwaniya governorate, Khetian Centre, apprehended a large quantity of outdated food stuffs stored in Rai area.

Municipality inspectors had earlier stumbled on sparse quantities of foodstuffs invalid for human consumption and managed to trace the source through intensive investigation to the distributor's storehouse in Rai.

Inspection of the storehouse revealed large quantities of invalid stuff commonly known as za'tar, coffee and a variety of different types of nuts and spices.

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**Defence officers**

A delegation grouping officers from the Ministry of Defence headed by Major Mohammed Ali Al Farsi recently paid a visit to the Technology Studies College. The delegation was received at the college by Dr Sulaiman Shamsuddin who discussed the fields of co-operation and co-ordination between the college and the Ministry of Defence.

The delegation toured around the different departments of the college including the laboratories of Chemical Engineering Technology, Mechanical Engineering Technology, Electronic Engineering Technology and Civil Engineering Laboratories. Picture above shows the officers pictured with Dr Shamsuddin.

## Move to speed up transplants

### Surgeon calls for closer co-ordination

DR George Mansour Abouma, a transplant and kidney surgeon, cited law No 44 issued by the Ministry of Public Health which provided for using organs of people killed in accidents for transplants with the prior consent of the family.

He called for the establishment of a special committee at each hospital for co-ordinating the work involved in transplant operations. He said that the proposed committee should consist of a medical team headed by the head of the intensive care unit or the head anaesthetist, a surgeon, representative of the nursing staff, social researcher and a representative of the public relation department.

The committee will function as a link between the hospital and the Hamed Al Issa Transplant Centre and report all deaths caused by cerebral inertia and others in a timely manner.

He stressed the need for using computers at the transplants centre where all deaths could be recorded,

ded, along with names of patients, donors and other relevant particulars needed for undertaking transplants.

He pointed out that it will be possible to meet the need for organs in Kuwait if only 20 per cent of the total people killed on an annual basis could be utilised and stressed the need to implement the decision issued by the MPH. He added that despite the annual 400 cases of deaths in Kuwait, caused by traffic accidents, a lack of co-ordination activities prevented the collection of organs of deceased victims.

He told that currently there are 260 patients waiting organs to be donated while undergoing regular dialysis which is a costly operation.

He reaffirmed the success of experiments at transplanting liver and pancreas in Kuwait, adding that the recent pancreas transplant operation performed in Kuwait was the first of its kind in the Middle East.

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## Priority to public utilities in Ahmadi

ALI Fahed, Al Adwani, chairman, Ahmadi Governorate Council said that the council is giving priority to increasing the number of declared settlements, opening of Manaqib Ghlimi, paving streets and organising the operations at the vegetables, fruits and fish market in Fahad.

Interviewed by a local daily, he stated that the coming months will prove the council's keenness to serve the governorate and its residents.

Establishment of governorate councils is a modern step to provide better services to citizens and reflects the concern paid by the government to serving its citizens, the official said.

He pointed out that the members of the governorate council are highly concerned with hearing all complaints and proposals submitted by governorate residents and are keen to attend talks at all Diwaniyas to be in constant communication with citizens.

Adwani said that a comprehensive review will be conducted on complaints presented by residents against Mukhtars at the governorate.

He said that a special office has been established to receive all complaints and proposals from citizens and is intended to cater to problems of individuals as well as a collective sector of residents.

■ The director of Engineering Technology at Kuwait's Ministry of Public Works, Adel Abdurahman was quoted as saying that future projects aim at rehabilitating and expanding the purification stations and international firms had tendered for implementing the project.

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## Call to wind up Friday Market

### Traders, sellers' reaction

THE Joint Economic Committee's report for reactivating the local economy included several suggestions addressing the business sector. One suggestion has called for closing down the Friday Market which according to the report was constituting an unjust competition for the market.

Friday Market was closed down several years ago and was re-opened to be utilized by a number of Kuwaiti pensioners and the public showed a great enthusiasm towards the Friday Market reopening as the market was providing several commodities at cheaper rates compared to those at commercial centres.

The Joint Economic Committee's report suggestion in this connection has created several reactions among the sellers and the public.

Salah Abdulla said that the Friday Market was an old idea of closing down of this market stressing that the market was serving a broad section of people particularly low income classes. He objected to the closing down of the market.

Yusuf Al Aibai denounced the idea of closing down of this market stressing that the market was serving a broad section of people particularly low income classes.

Ibrahim Ahmed, said that Friday Market was providing quality goods at lower prices.

Ali Al Aibai said that Friday Market was not competing with others, but was benefiting markets as well as consumers who can purchase their requirements at reasonable prices.

Yaqoub Al Naithsi, said that

he rented a stall from one Kuwaiti and was offering a wide variety of high quality goods. He added that the market was serving the public and the closure will adversely affect many traders in Kuwait who sell their stocks to the dealers at Friday Market. Al Jabali Abdullaif said that prices at Friday Market were competitive and the market was playing a vital role in reactivating the business.

# Kuwait welcomes resumption of Egypt-Syrian ties

KUWAIT has welcomed resumption of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Syria and stressed significance of the step in realising Arab aspirations for unity and solidarity in facing immediate challenges.

It also expressed satisfaction at the decisions taken by the Bulgarian movement offering more freedom to Muslims in practising religious rites and the positive Turkish response in the decisions.

The stance was made during a weekly cabinet session on Sunday, chaired by His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdalla.

Briefing newsmen, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed

said the Council of Ministers started its session by expressing best felicitations to His Highness the Amir and the people of Kuwait on occasion of the New Year, hoping that the new decade would be one of prosperity for the Arab and Muslim nations and of continued peace, welfare and stability for Kuwait.

The Cabinet, Al Rashed added, was also apprised of the visit to be paid to Egypt by HH the Crown Prince and Premier coming January 8 at the head of a government delegation.

The delegation will include the Ministers of State for Foreign Affairs, ministers of commerce and industry and justice and legal affairs, senior officials from HH Diwan and the ministries of foreign affairs and finance, army chief

of staff, undersecretary of interior, director of the military staff of the national guards, chairman and director-general of Kuwait News Agency, president of the Kuwaiti Journalists Society and a military and information delegation.

Reviewing the state visit made to Kuwait last week by Chinese President Yang Shangkun, at invitation of the Amir, the Council of Ministers was informed on context of talks between the Kuwaiti and Chinese sides which dealt with all facets of existing co-operation between the two friendly countries and means to strengthen it in line with the close ties binding them, the official said.

The talks, Rashed elaborated, also

tackled ways to implement Security Council Resolution 598 on ending the Iraq-Iran conflict and reinstatement of comprehensive peace in the Arab Gulf region as well as Mideast developments, the Palestinian people's just rights and overall world conditions of mutual interest.

The government spokesman indicated that Finance Minister Jassim Al Kharafi reported to the session outcome of the joint Kuwaiti-Chinese commission on economic, technical co-operation and trade exchange, which resulted in conclusion of an agreement ending double taxation and an economic, technical co-operation accord between the two governments.

Rashed said the Cabinet has expres-

sed satisfaction at the gratifying results of the Chinese president's visit and underlined its role in cementing relations between the two friendly states.

The minister of commerce and industry also reported to the Cabinet on his visit last week to Muscat where he took part in the 14th session of the GCC trade co-operation committee, board meetings of the specifications and standardisation authority and the third Gulf industrialists' conference.

The Council of Ministers welcomed resumption of diplomatic ties between Cairo and Damascus as well as recent decisions taken by Bulgaria's government giving more freedom to Muslims to practice their rites and the positive Turkish response to these decisions,

Rashed indicated.

He pointed out that the Cabinet praised the constructive step as reflecting both countries' keenness on resolving this dispute and welcomed the meeting of next January 9 in Kuwait between the Bulgarian and Turkish foreign ministers, under auspices of Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad, to tackle vestiges of the problem of the Muslim minority in Bulgaria in a manner serving interests of the two friendly peoples.

Out of interest to make maximum use of available national resources and experiences and to ensure optimum use of human resources, Al Rashed said the Cabinet session has discussed possible

employment of capable pensioners and requests the civil service commission to recommend on the best means to this effect such that pensioners can continue offering their services to the country.

He added that the Cabinet also considered means to strengthen the role of governorates' councils in improving the standard of services offered by the state and to ensure harmony between state institutions and those councils in the manner between serving the public.

The Council of Ministers also discussed and approved a recommendation of the ministerial committee on Kuwait's contribution to world, regional and Islamic specialised agencies Al Rashed concluded.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Amiri audience

HIS Highness the Amir on Saturday received in audience HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla Al Salem Al Sabah and Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber.

The Amir on Sunday morning received Sheikh Jaber Al Ali.

The Amir has sent a cable of greetings to President Vaclav Havel on the occasion of his election as head of state of the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia.

### Five-day work

BAHRAIN, Jan 1, (Reuters): Bahraini civil servants will work a 35-hour, five-day week from February 1 instead of the 36-hour six-day week they work now, the Gulf News Agency (GNA) said yesterday.

The agency quoted Bahrain's Development and Industry Minister Youssef Shirawi as saying the Cabinet decided to introduce the Saturday to Wednesday week on a trial basis.

Government schools are expected to follow suit.

### Nasser meetings

MINISTER OF Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Muhammad Al Ahmad Al Jaber received at his office chairman and members of the capital's governorate council.

During the meeting, Sheikh Nasser welcomed the council's members and congratulated them for their appointment, wishing them success in serving Kuwait.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the council Abdul Rahman Al Modhaika on behalf of the council members thanked Sheikh Nasser for his ministry's services in various fields.

Sheikh Nasser also received board chairman and members of Kadma's club on the occasion of winning the elections of the club board of directors where they presented to him a memorial gift.

Later on, Sheikh Nasser received chairman and members of the Sea Club on the occasion of winning the board of directors' elections. They presented to him an album containing some pictures of marine life.

### Saudi book show

RIYADH, Jan 1, (Kuna): Department of libraries affairs of Imam Mohammed ibn Saudi Islamic University organises on March 3rd the second international book show and invitation has been extended to more than 900 domestic, Arab, Islamic and international publishers to attend the show.

She stressed that the CSC endorsed the allocation of 273 grades for the nursing staff to meet existing shortages. The proposal is to be endorsed by the CSC and the Council of Ministers.

A committee under the chairmanship of the director of the undersecretary's technical office, Dr Ahmad Al Ayyaf has been formed and has received 400 applications for nursing positions during their recruitment visit to Bangladesh. Only 123 applicants passed the test, of which only 18 passed the interview.

She added that 75 applicants from residents in Kuwait also applied for these nursing posts and a special committee had been formed to study the applications.

Returning to the issue of clinic assistants operating in ex-ministry clinics, the official said that they undertake tasks aimed at helping doctors carry out general medical examinations by preparing all tools needed in the process. They also monitored patients' pulse, temperatures, maintained records and generally provided health instructions.

She said that the ministry is awaiting a decision by the CSC endorsing the allowances of clinic assistants. The ministry of late had suspended courses for clinic assistants and these will be replaced by other courses after co-ordination with the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.

The intended courses are aimed at qualifying Kuwaiti youths in the field of health services and paramedical spheres. This is intended to qualify them to gain the needed skills to take up positions in paediatric hospitals.



The Amir of Qatar, Shaikh Khalifa Bin Hamad (right) and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak review the guard of honour at the Presidential Palace in Cairo upon Shaikh Khalifa's arrival yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

## International Holy Quran reciting contest

MAKKAH, Jan 1, (Kuna): The 12th international Holy Quran reciting contest organised by the Ministry of Pilgrimage and Endowments, starts on Jan 20 at the Islamic Solidarity Hall here, Abdul Wahab Abdul Waise, the minister of pilgrimage and endowments announced.

He said the ministry organises the annual contest in line with the wise directives of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz, to encourage Muslim youth to memorise the Holy Quran and added

that Islamic endowments and religious Affairs ministers and representatives of various Islamic organisations and centres worldwide were invited to attend the contest.

He said the contest has realised its objectives so far.

Abdul Waise said the conditions of the contest stipulates that the participant's age should not exceed 25 years, that he should have not taken part in previous contests and that he is not among the famous readers in his

country.

He said the ministry will pay travel and accommodation expenditures of participants and has prepared a programme for them to visit the holy sites in Makkah and Madinah and King Fahd Complex for printing the Holy Quran in Madinah.

As much as 1,557 contestants representing 40 Islamic states and representatives of more than 50 Islamic organisations in non-Muslim states and centres worldwide have taken part in such contests since 1979.

## System for exchange of data by telephone

RIYADH, Jan 1, (Kuna): A study conducted by computer science and data faculty at King Saud University on advertising board and exchange of electronic data has led in the development of an integrated system for the exchange of computerised data, opinions and programmes by telephone.

The project is sponsored by Dr Abdullah Ibn Mohammed Al Dhalaan, the assistant professor at the department and supervisor of data centre at the college, Saudi Press Agency said.

Dr Al Dhalaan, an expert of computer network and programme engineering told "Resalat Al Jamieya" newspaper, published by the university, in an interview published Saturday that the new system will enable subscribers to talk with each other, exchange data and reports and to collect any clarification within few minutes.

Dr Al Dhalaan said a statistical system is now under consideration to study the data collected by the system from callers without distribution of any papers or making any effort.

"The new system will facilitate scientific communication between all concerned people and give the graduates an opportunity to contact each other through open conferences or personal letters," he said.

Dr Al Dhalaan states that the system will not receive any information without the approval of the managers of the system.

## Island can look back with pride

BAHRAN can be justifiably proud of its overall progress and development in all spheres during 1989 as it confidently moves into the nineties with the rest of the world. The island witnessed a host of crucial events, celebration of anniversaries of vital institutions and above all unprecedented success in a number of fields in the course of industrialisation of commercial growth both in terms of regional and international importance.

Bahrain saw the culmination of a progressive as well as a turbulent decade of the eighties in the last year. Despite some tremendous odds and island has come out with flying colours as it managed to sustain its economic development schemes to the point where it can look back with more a sense of satisfaction.

Bahrain enjoyed a number of landmarks in the economic field during 1988, which will be remembered as a year of some of the most significant achievements in Bahrain's history.

1989 opened in Bahrain with the holding of the Fourth Tourism Seminar in the wake of a vigorous campaign launched by the government in recent times to promote and develop the island as a major tourism centre in the region. The event proved a resounding success and generated considerable interest in the hospitality industry in the country. In the following months a number of groups from various European countries toured the island for the first time. Authorities announced plans to build about 18 new first class hotels around the country over the next five years.

The island, long recognised as a leading exhibition centre in the Gulf for both regional and international trade exhibitions, this year, the venue for a number of prestigious exhibitions. Bahrain's exhibition centre hosted the 6th Middle East Communications Conference and reaffirmed the country's reputation as one of the most advanced telecommunications centres in the world. The 5th GCC Trade Fair, the 4th Arab Aluminum Conference (Arabal), International Bar Association Second Arab Regional Conference and 5th Regional Arab Women's Conference, all held for the first time here, were among other important events reflecting Bahrain's growing reputation as a commercial as well as progressive modern nation in the region and elsewhere.

1989 will also go down in Bahrain's commercial history for the opening of the country's stock exchange in April, thereby boosting the island's already solid reputation as the banking and financial centre in the Gulf.

In the field of health, Bahrain became the first country in the Gulf to start a test-tube baby unit at a state hospital in June, followed a few months later by a similar project at a private hospital. The country hosted the Middle East Medicare Conference with great success when more than 75 leading doctors world-wide presented about 150 papers covering specific aspects of the medical profession.

One of the highlights of the year was the success of a seat-belt campaign and general road safety awareness progress. In a bid to increase employment prospects for nationals, the government launched a five-year plan to train and qualify 20,000 Bahrainis to fill positions filled by expatriates as part of the "Bahrainisation" policy.

The year saw Bahrain celebrate vital anniversaries of some of its cherished institutions. Bapco, the country's oil company, celebrated its 60th anniversary. This pioneering company, which was formed in 1928, was responsible for discovering oil for the first time in the region in Bahrain in 1932 and has never looked back since. The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce marked its golden jubilee recently backed by an enviable record of fostering trade and commerce both in the country and the region over the decades. The country's first five-star hotel, the Gulf Hotel, celebrated its 20th anniversary. The reception to mark the occasion was the best of the year drawing over 1,000 guests from all over.

The intended courses are aimed at qualifying Kuwaiti youths in the field of health services and paramedical spheres. This is intended to qualify them to gain the needed skills to take up positions in paediatric hospitals.

## Nurses allowed to work outside

THE Civil Service Commission (CSC) has endorsed the right of some nursing staff in work as assistant nurses at ex-ministry clinics by superseding their right to job-nature allowances on the basis of their technical proficiency.

Mariam Al Raqam, director of the Nursing Services Department at the Ministry of Public Health told a local daily that 175 staff operated as assistants at the clinics no professional tasks that lessen the burden on nurses.

She stressed that the CSC has endorsed the allocation of 273 grades for the nursing staff to meet existing shortages. The proposal is to be endorsed by the CSC and the Council of Ministers.

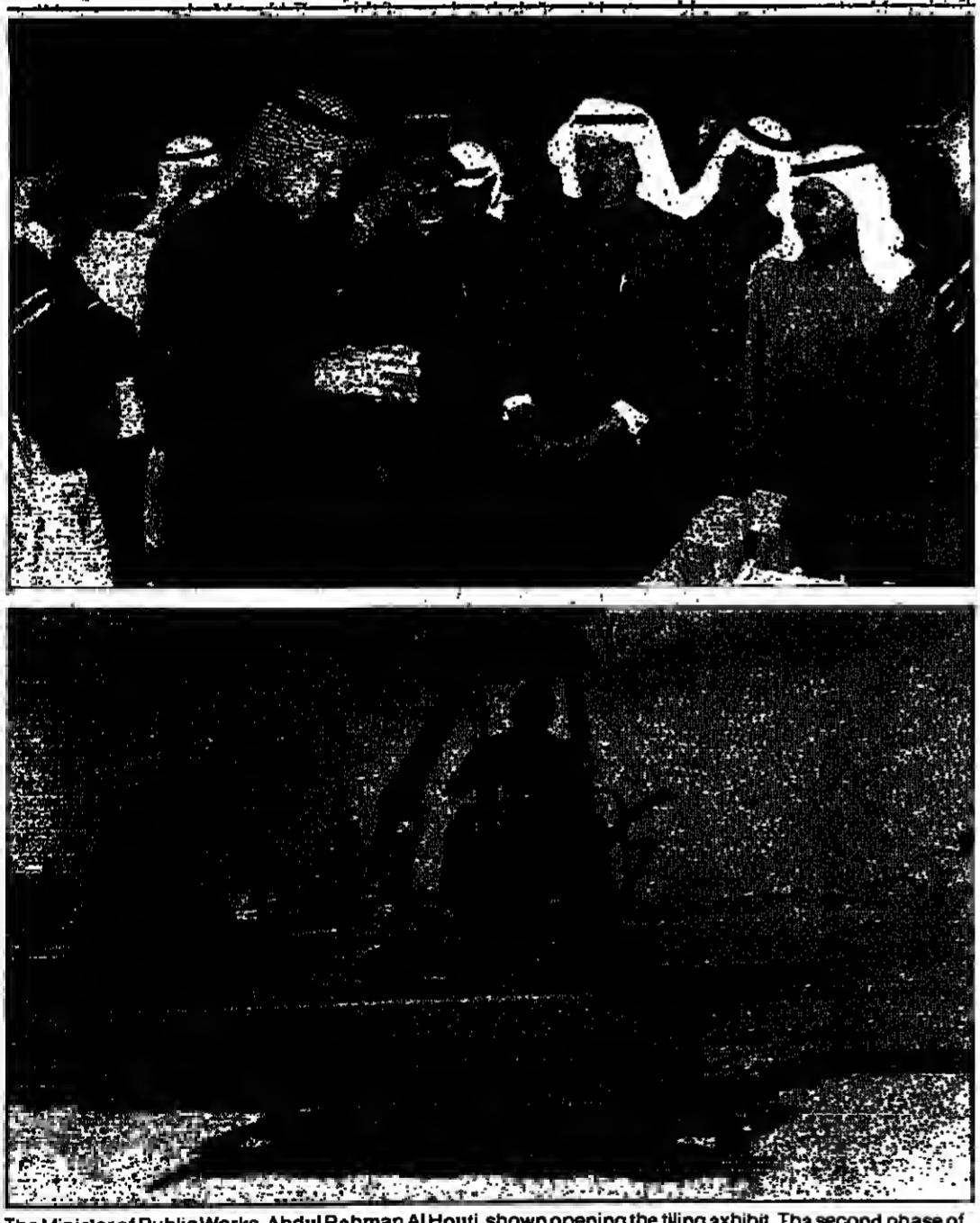
A committee under the chairmanship of the director of the undersecretary's technical office, Dr Ahmad Al Ayyaf has been formed and has received 400 applications for nursing positions during their recruitment visit to Bangladesh. Only 123 applicants passed the test, of which only 18 passed the interview.

She added that 75 applicants from residents in Kuwait also applied for these nursing posts and a special committee had been formed to study the applications.

Returning to the issue of clinic assistants operating in ex-ministry clinics, the official said that they undertake tasks aimed at helping doctors carry out general medical examinations by preparing all tools needed in the process. They also monitored patients' pulse, temperatures, maintained records and generally provided health instructions.

She said that the ministry is awaiting a decision by the CSC endorsing the allowances of clinic assistants. The ministry of late had suspended courses for clinic assistants and these will be replaced by other courses after co-ordination with the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.

The intended courses are aimed at qualifying Kuwaiti youths in the field of health services and paramedical spheres. This is intended to qualify them to gain the needed skills to take up positions in paediatric hospitals.



The Minister of Public Works, Abdul Rahman Al Houti, shown opening the tiling exhibit. The second phase of the project to tile and pave public roads and roundabouts will begin with the new year. The ministry has allocated a KD11 million budget for the two-year project.

PUBLIC Works Minister Abdul Rahman Al Houti has said that his ministry will start early January implementing the second phase of paving the country's sidewalks and roundabouts.

Al Houti, in an interview with Kuna, said that the ministry had earmarked KD11 million budget for this stage expected to cover the next two years.

The minister, who was speaking to Kuna after opening the roads maintenance department's tile-laying exhibition, affirmed the importance given to that project and that the coming stage will witness a big expansion in paving and beautifying sidewalks.

He underlined that the ministry was endeavouring to execute the project based on entirely domestic efforts in accordance with the economic report, recently approved by the

government, which advocates activating local industries.

The project provides psychological relief to citizens, Al Houti remarked, adding that Kuwait, as a desert country, lacks beautiful landscapes which entails need of intensified efforts to compensate that aspect.

The minister pointed to the project's health benefits, namely avoiding accumulation of dust in manholes and in open squares.

Describing the current tile-laying operation as "civilisation", Al Houti said that it facilitates maintenance since the tiles could be lifted and refitted without breaking them.

Asked on choice of colours of tiles, Al Houti said that the ministry was following up the citizens' reaction to those colours and consequently resolved to diversify the colours and shapes used.

He cited, in this respect, artistic designs in

# ARAB TIMES

## Thought for today

A HAPPY life must be to a great extent a quiet life, for it is only in an atmosphere of quiet that true joy can live.  
Bertrand Russell, British philosopher (1872-1970).

## Focus on next decade World will demand more from UN

UNITED NATIONS, (UPI): The world became increasingly interdependent in the 1980s, as exemplified by the rapid changes in Eastern Europe, and will demand more from the United Nations in the next decade to end conflicts and ironmen and Aids, the UN chief says.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who has headed the United Nations since 1982, said he plans to retire at the end of 1991 after two five-year terms. He expressed regret at achieving what he described merely as "mini-successes" so far.

He is the fifth UN secretary general since the world body was formed in 1945, after World War II.

"The most important thing that has happened since I became secretary-general is that the world has become more interdependent," the 69-year-old diplomat told United Press International in an interview.

Global pollution, debt, the inadequacy of Third World health care and the search for a cure for acquired immune deficiency syndrome have strengthened the need for interdependency and forced governments to remove artificial frontiers in seeking common solutions, he said.

"What is happening in Eastern Europe is a reflection of that interdependence, political as well as economic," he said.

Keenly aware of restraints on his authority, the Peruvian UN leader said the partial successes of his administration have laid the groundwork for possible breakthrough in the 1990s.

Those successes include helping arrange the August 1988 ceasefire that ended the eight-year Iran-Iraq war, overseeing the end of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan earlier this year and setting the stage for independence in Namibia.

"The first success — absolute total achievement — will be independence for Namibia," Perez de Cuellar said, referring to UN participation in ending South African rule in the last African colony. But there are unresolved conflicts:

Iran and Iraq have refused to reconcile their differences for a final peace agreement since the end of hostilities.

The civil war continues in the Western Sahara between the Algerian-supported Polisario Front and Morocco and in Cambodia between the Vietnamese-backed government and a pro-Western Cambodian resistance group.

Cyprus, invaded by Turkey in 1974, remains divided into Greek Cypriot and Turkish sectors.

Perez de Cuellar predicted that an overall Middle East peace agreement is unlikely in the near future because the United States, the Soviet Union, France and Britain will not relinquish their own interests in the region.

He warned that any future major war in the Middle East would destroy the strides made in the past decade toward restoring peace. He proposed that the superpowers seize on the warming of East-West relations to end tensions in the long-troubled region.

One obstacle standing in the way of an Arab-Israeli peace, he said, could be that Israel does not

speak with a unified voice, "making the task (of negotiating peace) more difficult to the Americans."

Perez de Cuellar said his role as a peace-maker has been less successful than that of UN peace-keeping operations, which won the 1988 Nobel peace prize.

It was awarded to the entire UN peace-keeping force, which currently is made up of about 10,000 soldiers dispersed through several conflict areas, mostly in the Middle East.

The blue-bereted observer teams generally are dispatched to monitor truce agreements, though some stay behind for many years in areas of protracted conflict.

The Swedish Nobel committee said the prize was awarded because "under extremely difficult conditions (they) contributed to reducing tensions where an armistice has been negotiated but a peace treaty has yet to be established."

Perez de Cuellar, who has a reputation for being ever-cautious, criticised some of the industrialized nations, chiefly the United States, and commercial banks for their "myopia" in not easing the Third World's \$1.3 trillion debt.

"It's incredible that the United States does not realise that problems in the Western hemisphere are its problems, too, and it should show more leadership and imagination to resolve them," he said.

He predicted that pragmatic leaders, from the East and West, will emerge. Dogmatic or fundamentalist ideas cannot survive because they "immobilise" the advancement of a population, the UN chief said.

Advising on the Namibia issue, he said, "the international community should create a South Africa-depeopled Swaziland. It must help Namibia to develop a sound economic base so it can stand on its own feet."

An UN force of more than 7,000 troops and civilians organised and supervised the Nov 7-11 elections for a constituent assembly to draft a constitution that will lead Namibia toward full independence by April, 1990, ending 75 years of South African occupation.

Perez de Cuellar volunteered to raise money and investments for Namibia.

"It will be a masterpiece, but it will depend on the drafting of the charter and the government that will be elected," he said.

Soft-spoken and not always an adroit ad-libber in public, Perez de Cuellar privately displays depth in international diplomacy and the guts that have gained him the trust of both sides in a conflict.

He attributed the ceasefire agreement between Iran and Iraq to the superpowers' being entirely engaged on either side of the conflict.

Perez de Cuellar served as a mediator between Iran and Iraq since the war erupted in 1980 over a border dispute. In July 1987, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 598 calling for a ceasefire, immediate release of prisoners of war, withdrawal of troops and talks for a final peace treaty.

Much depends on the health of 85-year-old Deng Xiaoping. A pragmatist who brought prosperity to China with his market-oriented reforms but also represents the old revolutionaries who used Stalinist repression to stifle popular dissent.

Deng's chosen successor is Jiang Zemin, 63, a relatively unknown who became head of the 48-million-member Communist Party in June after reformer Zhao Ziyang was accused of supporting the pro-democracy movement and purged from his party posts.

Jiang, the former Shanghai Party boss, is believed to favour economic reforms but, in keeping with the current line, has come across as a hard-liner since taking office. He needs time to develop his weak political base and cultivate his own political image, and if Deng, believed to be in frail health, goes quickly, Jiang could face a rapid ride into oblivion.

His rivals for power are ideological conservatives such as Premier Li Peng and octogenarian President Yang Shangkun.

Their ascendancy would mean a return to communism, backyard steel mills and international isolation. But it would accelerate the trend, already in progress, of re-emphasizing central planning, stifling private initiative and retreating on economic and political reforms.

Their demand for unquestioning loyalty to the communist system and Communist Party rule also would put them on what many Chinese believe is an inevitable collision course with the forces of reform.

The Tiananmen Square movement for a more democratic and open society, crushed by the military, is quiescent but is certain to re-emerge



Palestinian youths hurl stones at an Israeli Army helicopter as women and children flee. (Inset) A Palestinian youth is led away under arrest by armed Israeli soldiers. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Greater stability predicted in 1990s

# Middle East peace still far off

NICOSIA, Cyprus, (AP): Efforts are moving slowly to end the Arab-Israeli dispute and other Middle East conflicts and the decline of hostilities between the superpowers could budge the region toward greater stability in the 1990s.

Iran-Iraq peace negotiations have stalled. Both sides are rearming amid a growing proliferation of long-range missiles in the region.

This is eroding Israel's long-held technological superiority and beheading superpower concern about a new arms race, including nuclear and chemical weapons in the volatile region.

The pace of the Arab-Israeli peace process is unlikely to gather momentum for some time, until Israel's right-wing prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, relaxes his hard-line position of refusing to negotiate with Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization.

Many observers believe this is unlikely unless there is intense pressure from Washington. Shamir, as well as with a faction of his own Likud Party as well as with his Labour coalition partners, is in no position to start making concessions.

Egypt is expected to remain the crucial mediator between Israel — with whom it signed a peace treaty in 1979 — the Palestinians and other Arab states in trying to reach a comprehensive Mideast peace initiative.

Hard-liners such as George Habash of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine have made clear their patience is running out.

The Arab-Israeli peace process, which has dragged on for more than 20 years with only Egypt's

10-point plan produced by Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, designed to break the deadlock over Israel's blueprint for elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, torn by a Palestinian uprising.

The main stumbling block is the Israeli government's refusal to negotiate with Palestinians they believe will speak for Arafat's PLO.

Arafat, backed by the Arab League, insists there can be no peace conference not attended by the PLO, which Arabs acknowledge as the Palestinians' sole representative.

Meanwhile, the two-year-old uprising shows no signs of collapsing. Fears have been raised that it will perhaps intensify if there is no discernible progress in the peace process.

Observers believe Arafat, after publicly renouncing terrorism and recognizing Israel's right to exist, has gone as far down the road to moderation as he can without alienating PLO hard-liners.

A year-old dialogue with the United States has failed to result in Washington jarring any concessions from the Israelis. Failure to produce substantive results will leave Arafat exposed and his peace initiative discredited within PLO.

Hard-liners such as George Habash of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine have made clear their patience is running out.

The Arab-Israeli peace process, which has drag-

ged on for more than 20 years with only Egypt's

peace treaty to show for it, has a profound impact on the region's other conflicts.

This is most pronounced in Lebanon, the Middle East's proxy battleground, where the Arab League was finally jolted into taking forceful action to end 14 years of civil war.

But the peace settlement it brokered has stalled because the Christian Army leader, Gen. Michel Aoun, rejects the pact, citing its failure to provide firm guarantees of a Syrian withdrawal.

The Syrians, their efforts to pacify their unruly neighbour thwarted yet again by the Iranian-backed Christians, are becoming frustrated and may yet move against Aoun.

Radical Syria, which needs Lebanon as a security buffer between itself and Israel, is likely to come under pressure from Moscow to moderate its stand on the overall Middle East settlement as detente improves.

Moscow, increasingly crucial to the peace process after years of being edged out by Washington, is already seeking to persuade Syria to abandon its drive for military parity with Israel.

The Kremlin, increasingly concerned with economic and social upheaval at home, has made clear that Syria must end its rift with Iraq, Egypt and the PLO to achieve the long-elusive Arab unity that is a prerequisite for an international peace conference.

## Uncertain future awaits China

# Ageing leadership, troubled times

BELING, (AP): An aging, unpopular leadership, a faltering economy and a restive population make for an uncertain and troubled future as China enters the last decade of the 20th century.

Pessimists hold the field as China emerges from one of the worst of many bad years under Communist Party rule — a year in which troops gunned down young demonstrators in the streets of Beijing, long-outlasted ties with the West collapsed and a decade of economic reforms ground to a halt.

China's goals for the end of the century — the quadrupling of national income compared to 1980, the smooth reversal of Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty in 1997 and the triumphant staging of the Olympic Games in 2000 — are all in doubt.

The key question is how long China can resist the storms of change that have swept through the communist autocracies of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Much depends on the health of 85-year-old Deng Xiaoping. A pragmatist who brought prosperity to China with his market-oriented reforms but also represents the old revolutionaries who used Stalinist repression to stifle popular dissent.

Deng's chosen successor is Jiang Zemin, 63, a relatively unknown who became head of the 48-million-member Communist Party in June after reformer Zhao Ziyang was accused of supporting the pro-democracy movement and purged from his party posts.

They ascended to power in 1989, with Deng's support, after the Tiananmen Square massacre.

Jiang, the former Shanghai Party boss, is believed to favour economic reforms but, in keeping with the current line, has come across as a hard-liner since taking office. He needs time to develop his weak political base and cultivate his own political image, and if Deng, believed to be in frail health, goes quickly, Jiang could face a rapid ride into oblivion.

His rivals for power are ideological conservatives such as Premier Li Peng and octogenarian President Yang Shangkun.

Their ascendancy would mean a return to communism, backyard steel mills and international isolation. But it would accelerate the trend, already in progress, of re-emphasizing central planning, stifling private initiative and retreating on economic and political reforms.

Their demand for unquestioning loyalty to the communist system and Communist Party rule also would put them on what many Chinese believe is an inevitable collision course with the forces of reform.

Their rivals for power are ideological conservatives such as Premier Li Peng and octogenarian President Yang Shangkun.

when the government lets down its guard.

Events in Eastern Europe have bolstered beliefs that the Chinese government cannot forever resist popular demand for reform.

Tiananmen also has clouded China's future relationship with Hong Kong and complicated its long-term goal of reunifying with Taiwan.

China has promised not to touch Hong Kong's capitalist system for 50 years after the British depart in 1997. But the nearly 6 million people of Hong Kong were badly shaken by the events of June, setting off a wave of emigrations among the colony's most talented people that is likely to continue until 1997.

The rival Nationalist government on Taiwan in recent years has eased restrictions on trade with and visits to the mainland, raising China's hopes of eventual reunification. But the bloody crackdown on demonstrations reinforced anti-communist sentiments on the island and probably strengthened the growing movement for Taiwanese independence.

Internationally, China's relations with the West will remain at a subnormal level as long as suppression of political dissent is an issue. That could be bad news for the nation's economic planners, who badly need Western investment and technology to carry out the modernization drive.

"The bloom is off the rose," said one Western economist, who noted that Western businessmen will be inclined to spend their money in such places as Eastern Europe or the Soviet Union.

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The

## MIDEAST

# Badran wins vote of confidence

AMMAN, Jan 1, (Agencies): Prime Minister Mudar Badran won a convincing vote of confidence from Jordan's lower house of Parliament today after a tense three-day debate.

House Speaker Suleiman Arar told a packed chamber that the government had won by 65 votes to nine with six abstentions.

The vote was taken after a hard-hitting two-hour speech by Badran in which he promised to abolish martial law, in force for 22 years, within four to six months.

Muslim Brotherhood deputies, who hold about a quarter of the seats in the 80-member house, threw their weight behind the prime minister but said they would

monitor the government's performance closely.

One Brotherhood deputy, Sheikh Abdul Mun'im Abu Zant, who required police protection after making a fiery speech which upset several deputies yesterday, voted against Badran.

The deputies, who include many Islamists, leftists and other critics of the government, were elected in November in Jordan's first general election since 1967.

The debate contained some of the toughest criticism faced by any Jordanian government in more than 20 years and Badran had to accommodate many demands voiced by deputies.

He rounded on several deputies who had said he was unfit to lead the government because of his past performances as prime minister and intelligence chief.

He marshalled figures to counter charges by former deputy prime minister Dhuqan Al Hindawi that he shared the blame for Jordan's huge foreign debt and government overspending.

To clear himself of insinuations of corruption, Badran said he would be the first to disclose his property and how he had acquired it. All senior officials must now declare their wealth.

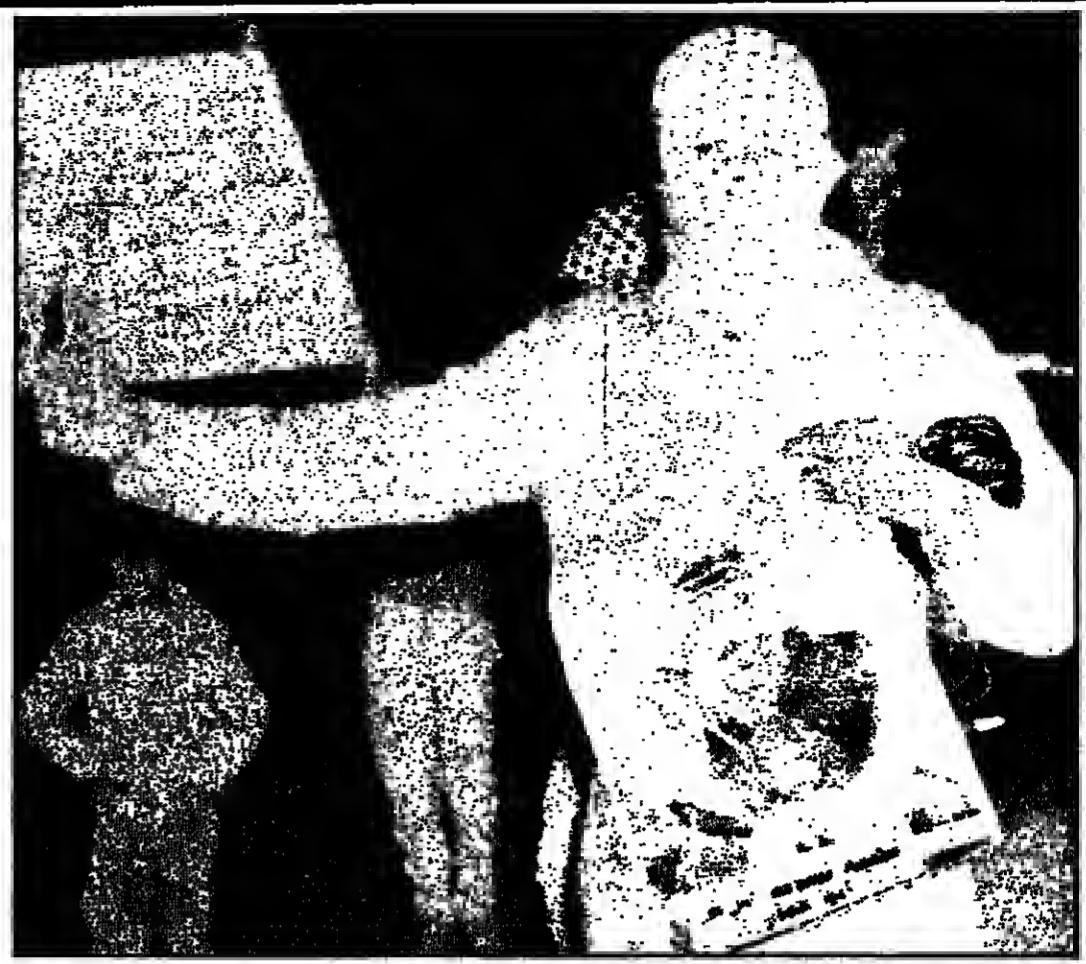
Muslim Brotherhood deputies had set 14 conditions as the price for their votes

and Badran opened his speech with a series of promises designed to satisfy them.

"It's a political strip tease," one Jordanian observer said of his performance, but government sources believed the prime minister made no substantial concessions to the Islamists.

Badran also vowed to repeal the 1953 law banning communism, to re-study the 1957 law banning political parties and to study the cases of political prisoners for possible amnesties.

The premier said his previous governments had prosecuted hundreds of people on corruption charges.



A masked Palestinian with rope tucked under his arm, wields a knife as he displays a Yasser Arafat poster at a demonstration in Hebron to mark the Fatah Day. (Rauat wirephoto)

## PLO marks anniversary of first raid

# 'Independence nearer'

BAGHDAD, Jan 1. (Agencies):

PLO chairman Yasser Arafat said yesterday the dream of establishing an independent Palestinian state is now closer to reality than when his Fatah group first launched raids on Israel in 1965.

Police, meanwhile, said postal authorities had defused 10 letter bombs sent from Cyprus in the past few days and warned the public there could be more on way.

In December 1987, two Israelis were slightly wounded by hobby-trapped Christmas cards sent from Turkey and Israeli experts blamed Fatah for the attack.

The army clamped a curfew on the 650,000 residents of the Gaza Strip before dawn today and barred journalists from entering the occupied area unless accompanied by the army.

In the West Bank, troops confined 300,000 residents to their houses, barring foreign journalists and 13 of 19 refugee camps.

They declared all of the West Bank except Bethlehem a closed military area.

Bethlehem residents said soldiers forced shopkeepers to close their stores shortly after they opened.

Despite the restrictions, pictures of PLO and Fatah leader Yasser Arafat and his assassin-deputy Khalil Al Wazir, were pasted all over the West Bank.

Palestinian activists also distributed leaflets tracing the history of Fatah.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation's largest commando group, Fatah was founded on Jan 1, 1965, three days after launching its first military attack against Israel.

Palestinian commandos then blew up Israeli water installations near the Jordan valley village of Alisheh in a failed attempt to divert the flow of the Jordan River.

In Jerusalem, female high school students raised Palestinian flags and chanted slogans saluting Fatah and the Palestinian uprising. Police surrounded the building but did not intervene.

Police said they found a dead grenade under the car of Vice Premier Salmon Peres' wife outside their Tel Aviv home.

For the fourth day in a row, unknown Arab assailants shot dead yesterday a Palestinian suspected of collaborating with Israel, Arab reports and Israel radio said.

Masoud Ibrahim Imadi, 28, died instantly when three masked men entered his home in the Bureij refugee camp in the Gaza Strip and shot him a number of times at close range, Arab reports said.

They said Imadi, a mechanic for the UN Relief and Welfare Association, was suspected of collaborating with Israeli authorities.

His death rose to 165 the number of Palestinians killed by fellow Arabs during the two-year Palestinian uprising. Most were suspected of collaborating.

"They took a dastardly action."

commandos at the time.

But Khomeini, Arafat said, preferred Paris "on pretext that the media machine there was more important."

"When the (Khomeini) revolution scored victory, we (the PLO) trained the Revolutionary Guards," claimed Arafat.

"This doesn't mean that they did not have qualified officers for training, but they intended not to depend on pro-Shah officers."

Arafat said "the theory to form the Revolutionary Guards was my theory. Khomeini once asked me what do to face the army of the Shah."

"I told him: Establish guards and call them Revolutionary Guards."

Arafat claimed nearly 1,000 Palestinians have been killed in an uprising against Israeli rule that erupted in December 1987, a development that spurred the Palestine National Council, the PLO's parliament-in-exile, to declare an independent Palestinian state Nov 15, 1988.

"This is not an ordinary war of liberation," Arafat declared.

"We're fighting against a mighty colonial power."

Most of the founders of Fatah, the main component of the PLO, have been assassinated or killed in combat with Israeli forces.

Arafat and a few of the old guards are still in command. But they are now pursuing a more moderate policy to negotiate with Israel and establish a Palestinian state in an area roughly encompassing the occupied West Bank of Jordan and the Gaza Strip, seized by the Israelis.

"Our state is only a stone's throw away from where we stand now," he said.

Arafat said the Palestinians in the occupied territories have established the infrastructure for a state he claimed has been recognised by 117 countries.

"Everything's ready. We only need to be there," he said.

The uprising has hit the Israeli economy and the crackdown by Israel's security forces against rioters armed in the main with stones and gasoline bombs has tarnished the Jewish state's image around the world, Arafat said.

# Masoud hangs four rivals

## Fighting in Khost

ISLAMABAD, Jan 1. (Agencies):

Mujahideen rebels claimed today to have killed or wounded 150 government troops and losing 30 of their own in three weeks of fighting in and around the Afghan town of Khost.

Fazal Akbar, head of Afghan information and documentation centre, a pro-rebel but non-aligned news agency, quoting a mujahideen commander said "the fighting left 150 government troops dead or wounded."

He said rebel casualties included 30 dead and 80 wounded.

"Most parts of the city of Khost have been destroyed," said Akbar, quoting Mali Khan, commander of Harkat-e-Islami rebel group.

In Qalqila, female high school students raised Palestinian flags and chanted slogans saluting Fatah and the Palestinian uprising. Police surrounded the building but did not intervene.

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"They took a dastardly action."

# Rival Shiite clash eases but goes on

BEIRUT, Jan 1. (Reuters): Rival Shiite militias exchanged rockets and machinegun fire in South Lebanon for the 10th successive day today after mediation efforts failed.

Security sources said fighters of the Syrian-backed Amal and the pro-Iranian Hezbollah clashed in the strategic Iqlim Al Tufah area 40 km (25 miles) south of Beirut.

Hezmaty said he was ordering his own men to stay calm.

"We won't seek retribution in a retaliatory way, I want to call on all Hezbollah commanders not to knuckle under to their emotions," Hezmaty said.

The fighting has eased since commandos loyal to PLO leader Yasser Arafat entered the area on Friday.

A PLO official said the 600-man force hoped to keep the two sides apart, but security sources said it had merely occupied positions between the battle zone and two Palestinian refugee camps near Sidon.

"They reinforced areas they were already holding. They only entered one new village, but even that is far from the frontline," a source said.

Palestinian sources said the PLO wanted to stop Hezbollah gaining ground in the direction of the camps, fearing they might link up with anti-Arafat groups there.

A Hezbollah source said the militants were not concerned about the Palestinian deployment and doubted it would be effective.

"We refuse to withdraw from our newly-captured positions before receiving guarantees that the past peace agreements with Amal will be carried out," the source added.

An Amal source said Hezbollah wanted to occupy South Lebanon to launch attacks against Israel and provoke retaliation from the Jewish state.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammed Ali Besharati, who mediated a ceasefire on Wednesday that collapsed within hours, ended a visit to Lebanon yesterday.

Amal has said it will keep fighting until Hezbollah withdraws from five newly-captured villages.

# Police smash peace chain

## 71 hurt in Jerusalem clash

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 1. (UPI): Israeli police, apparently reacting to Palestinian chants supporting independence and the PLO, fired tear-gas and rubber bullets on Saturday into a multinational crowd of demonstrators participating in a human chain for peace around Jerusalem's walled old city.

More than 71 people in Arab East Jerusalem were treated for injuries caused by rubber bullets, beatings and tear-gas inhalation, hospital officials said. Among those injured were four- and seven-year-old Palestinian children who had skull fractures and an Italian woman who lost her right eye, they said.

Hundreds of the estimated 15,000 to 20,000 demonstrators who gathered for the human chain around the walled Old City in Arab East Jerusalem ran for cover as police and paramilitary border patrol soldiers fired tear-gas and rubber bullets toward the crowd along sidewalks in Arab East Jerusalem.

Police did not disturb peace activists who linked arms along the Old City walls in Jewish west Jerusalem.

Police also opened fire on demonstrators with a water cannon that sprayed liquid with a green-coloured dye. The dye-coloured water is used to mark demonstrators who can then be arrested if they manage to flee the scene. It is a tactic long used by South African police to identify street protesters.

Marisa Manno, the 43-year-old Italian woman who lost her eye, had retreated to her hotel overlooking the demonstration after the initial violence erupted. She was watching the protest when spray from the police water cannon shattered a window, sending glass splinters into her right eye, demonstration organisers said.

Police detained 95 people during the violence and released all but 16 Palestinians by nightfall, a spokesman said. Foreigners were among the wounded and detained, officials and organisers said.

The violence erupted as an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 Israelis, Palestinians and peace activists from Europe and the United States linked hands around Jerusalem's walled Old City.

It was the largest demonstration involving Palestinians and Israelis since the start of the two-year-old Palestinian uprising against 22 years of Israeli occupation.

Palestinian demonstrators said they believed thousands of other Palestinians from the occupied territories would have joined in the human chain if Israeli forces had not set up checkpoints on Saturday to stop people authorities considered potential troublemakers from entering Jerusalem.

The human chain — dubbed "give peace hand" — was part of a three-day conference organised by Palestinians, Israelis and Europeans to draw attention to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and attempt to explain the concerns of both sides.

A day earlier, up to 5,000 women marched from Jewish West Jerusalem to Arab East Jerusalem calling for an end to the Israeli occupation of the territories.

Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek and right-wing parliamentarians criticised Saturday's demonstration. Kollek urged political movements to "stop using Jerusalem as an instrument for the advancement of their own political aims."

Despite the violence, many participants deemed "give peace hand" a major success because of the better-than-expected turnout and the participation involving both Israelis and Palestinians.

The human chain — dubbed "give peace hand" — was part of a three-day conference organised by Palestinians, Israelis and Europeans to draw attention to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and attempt to explain the concerns of both sides.

"It is my duty to leave the arena now," he said in a statement distributed to the media in North Yemen where he has been living in exile.

The deposed ruler said: "I feel it is my duty to relinquish my post and the responsibility I bore and to leave it to the people to judge for themselves ..."

He said his decision, taken to mark the New Year, was dictated by "my feeling of the importance of the coming stage ... and the unionist steps" taking shape between the two

Yemens.

He thanked the North Yemeni leadership for the hospitality they accorded him during his years of exile.

Mohammed has been living in exile in North Yemen since he was defeated in a 12-day civil war in January 1986 between rival factions of the ruling Yemeni Socialist Party.

Some 40,000 of his followers fled with him to North Yemen. The new rulers in Aden tried him in absentia and sentenced him to death.

Mohammed's threats to return to regain power in Aden heightened tension between the two Red Sea states and snarled efforts to unite the two neighbours that he had spearheaded while he ruled.

S. Yemen has been the Arab world's only self-proclaimed Marxist state since it gained

independence from Britain in 1967.

The new leadership in Aden pursued a friendly policy toward Sanaa and South Yemen's other neighbour on the Arabian peninsula, particularly as Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of perestroika gained momentum.

The moves toward unity were revived and Aden's leadership issued a general amnesty that allowed most of Mohammed's supporters to return home.

But when North Yemeni leader Ali Salem Al Beidh visited Aden last week for a summit with President Ali Abdulla Saleh, the South Yemeni leadership said after the meeting that the amnesty would cover those "against whom punitive sentences were passed."

# Communism is a sin: Badr

CAIRO, Jan 1, (Reuters): Egyptian Interior Minister Zaki Badr denounced communism as a sin which had impoverished mankind.

"Communism was a sin committed by humanity over its long history. It has impoverished wealthy nations and pushed advanced nations backwards,"

Badr told workers at a state-owned iron and steel plant to break up the stoppage.

"It is quite strange that there are still people in Egypt who believe in communism and call for its public and private while we are witnessing its retreat."

# Filipinos learn about Symphony



Kapilkul's participants listening attentively.

THE Association of Filipinos in Kuwait (Kapilkul) held their fourth week of their computer course on Friday at Kabayan Restaurant. More than 100 participants learned about a new programme called Symphony.

Jonathan A. Gonzales, financial accountant of the Holiday Inn Hotel, briefly explained the features of Symphony. He also explained the mechanics, importance and commands of Sym-

phony.

Rudy Ocampo, manager of Echn electronics will discuss Data Base III Plus on the last day of the course. He will be assisted, by Joel and Ariens Bonecillo a computer engineer and a programmer, respectively.

Kapilkul's auditor Beda Borja is the chairman of the course - Sarah Macarimhang, vice-president for Social and Cultural Affairs is the over-all co-ordin-

ator of the project.

The computer course is a project of Kapisanang Pilipino sa Kuwai (Kapilkul) and is sponsored by Kabayan Restaurant.

The last session and the awarding of the Certificate of Attendance will be held next Friday at 9:00 am. Successful students will be awarded a certificate right after the last programme of the session by Kapilkul president Manny Inserto.



Jonathan Gonzales discussing the basic commands in Symphony.

phoo. The lecture, which is in English, is open to all.

**Seminar**

THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiocal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tues-

day 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration maybe made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyah, Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

**Tribal Rugs & Oriental Prints**

THE Sultan Gallery will be holding a Tribal Rugs and Oriental Prints exhibition starting Saturday Dec 23 until Jan 15. On Saturday, the Gallery

will be open from 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. Else, it will be open from 9.30 am to 12.30 o'clock and 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. For more information contact: 2427951.

**SOCIAL**

Danielle Coffee Morning

THE next coffee morning for Danes will be held on Jan 7 at 9.30 am in the Meridien Hotel, first floor. For details please call logo — Tel: 3727688 ext. 207.

**Kuwait Cultural Centre**

NEW courses at the cultural centre: yogic healing classes, two sessions in the evenings on Tuesdays and Thursdays; jujutsu (martial arts), Saturday and Mondays, pm; Chinese cooking classes, Saturdays, 9-11 am. For details call 5624393.

**IAC Children's Competition**

THE dates of finals of the Children's Competition will take place at IAC Fumatees on 13th, 14th, 15th, 27th and 28th December '89 and 18th January '90 respectively. For more details contact Indian Schools.

**Konkani Drama**

THE New Goans Overseas Association is pleased to announce Menin De Bandar's "Sounscarant Astana Dial" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Fumatees) on the 16th of February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, Felcy, Josephine, Betty Alvares, Tita, Juniar Rod, Carlus, Rnsarin Dias, C. D'Silva, John de Parra and Menin de Bandar.

**ARTS**

**Lecture**

PROFESSOR Oleg Grabar, of Harvard University, USA, will give a public lecture on "The Earliest Representations of Mosques in Islamic Art".

The lecture will be held on Wednesday, 3rd January, 1990 at 6:00 pm at the Kuwait

University Auditorium.

**Travellers**

Executive Chef, Didier Cazes of the Meridien Hotel, Kuwait prepared a special festive menu served for lunch and dinner at the La Bresserie and Versailles Restaurants of the Hotel on 31st December 1989.

Photo: The Meridien Chef with A. Raslan, the assistant Food & Beverage Manager.

**Seasons greetings**

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# BUSINESS & FINANCE

## Singh plan to help poor

(Continued from Page 1)

landless cultivators and artisans up to Rs 10,000. It has also said that a long-term fiscal policy would be presented during the budget session of Parliament.

Reiterating the government's commitment to curb ostentations and elitist consumption, the announcement said that measures needed in this regard would be taken early. To push up exports in a big way and plug loopholes in the import-export rules as also simplify procedures, the government will announce new three-year import-export policy on April 1.

Stipulated pre-shipment documentation will be finalised and announced on March 1. The export policy will encourage the export of items with high net foreign exchange content.

The Defence Ministry will appoint a committee to examine modalities for implementing a scheme for realising the ruling National Front's commitment to the principle of "one-rank-one-pension" for ex-servicemen.

The government will set up a National Security Council under the chairmanship of the prime minister by April 16, which will an integrated, long-term defence strategy for the country. It has promised a comprehensive legislative programme for appointments and transfers of judges. The bill seeking to grant autonomy to state-owned radio and television, already introduced in Parliament, will be enacted after a national debate in the next session.

The government also plans to amend the constitution to guarantee the "right to information." The citizen's right to privacy will also be safeguarded through legislation. An amendment to the official secrets act will also be carried out.

After the state assembly elections, due in early 1990, an interstate council will be set up. Special measures for the minorities will be formulated during the budget session of Parliament; a scheme to ensure that special courts are promptly set up for expeditious disposal of cases relating to caste and communal riots will be finalised before March.

The government has promised the highest priority to the promotion of workers' participating in management, and necessary legislation will be brought forward in the next session of parliament.

From April, the government has assumed a substantial expansion of the existing programmes for the urban poor, including provision of basic services and facilities in slums and special attention to the needs of women and children. A scheme for providing night shelter for pavement dwellers in major cities is expected to benefit about 1 lakh people during the coming financial year. A comprehensive national housing policy and the liberation and rehabilitation of scavengers has also been proposed.

## Exchange controls scrapped

PARIS, Jan 1, (Reuter): For the first time since 1945, the French will be allowed to open accounts in foreign currencies when the banks open tomorrow after the New Year holiday.

They will also be legally able to have bank accounts abroad.

Successive governments have been phasing out foreign exchange controls over the past four years and Finance Minister Pierre Beregovoy speeded up the process as a sign of France's commitment to European Monetary Union.

The government decided in mid-December to end remaining foreign exchange controls on January 1.

Beregovoy also wanted to show his confidence in the franc's ability to withstand the potential transfer of cash abroad by investors.

## Convertible dinar introduced

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, Jan 1, (AP): Yugoslavia today introduced a new dinar freely convertible to Western currencies and worth 10,000 old dinars, the state Tanjug news agency reported.

The new currency has been fixed at seven to the West German mark, and its introduction is part of government attempts to battle inflation which exceeds 2,600 per cent last year, said Tanjug.

A government austerity programme also includes a wage freeze and liberalisation of most prices still under subsidy over the next six months, said Tanjug.

Unemployment in 1989 was at 17 percent, and the foreign debt is at \$17 billion to this non-aligned communist country.

## Kuwait's air passengers to pay more

By M.C. Bose  
Business editor

MOST of the airlines in Kuwait have been gradually increasing the fare in stages to improve their yield. A tendency of joint action by various airlines in the matter of increasing in the fare has been noticed, particularly for the last one year. The travel agents have not benefited from this move since they have been giving 7 to 8-1/2 per cent commission to the passengers. The travel agents pay discount to the pas-

senger out of the 9 per cent commission which they receive from the airlines. Now they feel justified in taking a united stand to protect their interest by reducing the discount level to 4 per cent.

All the airline passengers in Kuwait will have to pay additional 3 to 4-1/2 per cent fare for their ticket from January 1, 1990.

Kuwait Travel and Tourism Agencies Association (KTTAA) issued a cir-

cular to all the travel agents in Kuwait, and said "the travel agent may offer discounts on their quoted commission, that should not exceed the amount shown as per contract signed with KTTAA."

Fahad Al Wazzan, member of the board and treasurer of KTTAA told the Arab Times that the decision has been taken by the association in order to protect the travel agents' interests and improve overall performance.

Airport Service Tax will be collected

at the time of ticketing. KTTAA has formed a sub-committee to look after the interest of the travel agents who had signed contracts with the association. The concerned travel agents were already informed to abide by the new regulations.

Some of the revised economy class excursion fares are given below: Kuwait-Cairo-Kuwait will be approximately KD95.300, Kuwait-London-Kuwait KD250.250, Kuwait-Manila-Kuwait KD314, Kuwait-Bombay-

Kuwait KD171.500 and Kuwait-Trivandrum-Kuwait 242.500.

A local airline executive has said the association's move gives a bitter sweet reaction. The increase in fare levels may bring down the number of passengers travelling and apparently airlines will not be happy about this. But he admitted that the revised fare will give new stability, which is a matter of constant concern for the airlines. A top executive of a travel agency said "It is a good

move because travel agencies are expected to give better services and win the passenger. There will not be any price war."

KTTAA organised a meeting in Kuwait recently to brief travel agents about the new fare structure, the activation of the travel industry and its performance. About 100 representatives from the local travel agents including officials from Kuwait Airways and Kuwait Aviastio Department attended the meeting.

### Budget projects growing confidence

## Saudi Arabia to boost spending

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Jan 1, (AP): Saudi Arabia yesterday announced a 1990 budget that increased expenditure by 2 billion riyals (about \$300 million) and listed an anticipated increase in revenues, apparently reflecting an improvement in the world oil market.

But the world's largest oil exporter ran a budget deficit for the seventh straight year — 25 billion riyals (\$6.6 billion) the same as in the 1989 budget.

"For the third year running, the deficit will be covered by development funds."

The kingdom first adopted the procedure in 1987 to curb drawing on reserves estimated to have depleted to about one-third of the \$150 billion the Saudis held at the height of the 1970s oil boom.

Overall, the budget projected a growing confidence that the worst of the oil-driven slump is over and that medium-term economic prospects are improving.

A statement by the Ministry of Finance and National Economy put anticipated revenues at 118 billion riyals (\$31.4 billion) in 1990, and government expenditure at 143 billion riyals (\$38.1 billion).

More than one-third of expenditure will go on defence, the breakdown showed.

King Fahd also announced a 753 billion-rival (\$200 billion) fifth five-year development plan during a council of ministers session in Riyadh.

Saudi Arabia's revenue last year was 116 billion riyals (\$30.9 billion). Expenditure was 141 billion riyals (\$37.6 billion).

The kingdom, the leading member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, has been suffering budget deficits since 1973 because of the oil price slump.

But oil revenues are up, as much as 20 per cent over 1988 by some estimates, as prices firms despite rampant over-production by some Opec states in violation of output quotas.

The improvement of a 1 per cent rise in revenues reflects the improvement in oil prices, although the Saudi statement did

### UAE sees stable oil market

ABU DHABI, Jan 1, (Reuter): A senior United Arab Emirates (UAE) official, in remarks published today, urged Gulf Arab states to agree on a common oil production policy and keep prices stable.

"Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states should agree a joint oil output policy that conforms to Opec decisions," Al Ittihad newspaper quoted Central Bank Governor Abdul Malik Al Hamar as saying.

The policy should include among its priorities prevention of a large increase in prices, Al Hamar said.

The GCC group of members Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE with Iran, Opec Bahrain and Oman. It has about half the world's oil reserves and accounts for half Opec's output.

"The 1990s carry great hopes for Arab and Gulf oil producers as expectations point to stability in... production and prices," Al Hamar said.

Finance and industry ministry undersecretary Naser Al Nuweis told reporters oil prices were likely to rise in 1990.

Nuweis, head of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development (Adaf), said higher revenues would allow the fund to make more loans.

Oil specifically say the 2 billion riyals (\$500 million) were coming from oil sales.

Saudi Arabia has been driving to diversify its economy to reduce its dependence on oil.

Fahd, announcing ratification of the budget, said the kingdom's share of oil market, as specified in the new Opec production quota beginning Jan 1, stands at 5.38 million barrels a day.

Fahd said the new budget provides for 26,225 new military jobs and 20,000 new civilian jobs, including 4,220 in education alone.

Last year, the government employed more than 20,000 people, including 8,200 university graduates. The Saudis are driving to create an estimated half-million jobs over the next five years, many of them in the private sector, to cope with population growth.

The monarch stressed that the five-year plan will concentrate on developing human resources and envisaged a greater role for the private sector.

Roughly one third of the budget will be allocated for investment spending.

Fahd said the budget provides for government tenders worth 9.36 billion riyals (\$2.4 billion) to implement 157 projects apart from 49.4 billion riyals (\$13.2 billion) on investment spending.

The last five-year plan was evaluated at 1,000 billion riyals (\$375 billion), but a large part of it was believed to have gone unrealised because of the oil price slump.

The kingdom is a major arms purchaser, and the defence sector, which includes purchases as

well as development projects and administrative spending, was listed at \$1.8 billion riyals (\$13.8 billion).

No figure was cited last year and in 1988 defence spending was pegged at 50 billion riyals (\$13.3 billion).

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## UK economic prospects good

### Govt ready to join EMS

LONDON, Jan 1, (Reuter): Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major claimed today that the outlook for Britain's overheated economy was good if high wage rises did not cripple the government's anti-inflation strategy.

He told the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC): "Providing we are able to deliver, economically, a low inflation-high investment economy then the prospects for us in the 1990s are very bright indeed."

Major stressed that a coming round of pay settlements in the private sector would be crucial to curbing inflation and preventing a rise in unemployment.

To a very large extent, the fate of employment rests in the hands of those who are negotiating wages at present," Major said.

If they produce unreasonable and unsustainable pay increases unmatched by productivity increases, then they stand every chance of pricing people out of jobs — but that is a decision they must make."

Public sector wage increases have crept above nine per cent despite the government's efforts to enforce an unofficial seven per cent ceiling broadly in line with inflation.

The government remained committed to joining the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System (EMS) when inflation was under control and Major forecast the move would come within "a reasonable period of time."

mark for much of private industry, is threatened with a strike soon in support of union demands for pay increases in excess of 10 per cent and a 35-hour working week.

Pay militancy has been reinforced by the government's loss of control of the economy during the last 18 months which has resulted in sharply higher inflation and a record trade deficit in excess of £20 billion (\$32 billion) in 1989.

The government's divisions on how the crisis should be handled forced Nigel Lawson to resign as Chancellor last autumn when he was replaced by Major.

Major told the BBC he did not believe the strategy of high interest rates, which has damaged the government politically, would tip the economy into recession this year as some critics have warned.

But he said a fall from the current rate of 15 per cent, double the rate in mid-1988, was not imminent despite the complaints of businesses and home owners.

The government remained committed to joining the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System (EMS) when inflation was under control and Major forecast the move would come within "a reasonable period of time."

### Happy New Year

نیا سال مبارک

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## Despite dire predictions of a recession Stocks turn in rousing performance

NEW YORK, Jan 1, (Reuter): All in all, 1989 was a surprisingly good year for the stock market.

Despite dire predictions of a recession, a few nasty spills in the takeover arena, sluggish corporate profits and the October 13 mini-crash, blue chip stocks advanced 27.0 per cent this year, dwarfing last year's 11.8 per cent rise.

And while 1990 promises further opportunities for gains, particularly with the changes taking place in Eastern Europe, analysts said weak corporate profits, a soft US economy and fears about high-yield debt may lead to some rough patches.

"It has been an unusually good year," said James Kalil Sr, president of Compu-Val Investments Inc.

Equity mutual funds, an increasingly popular form of retail investment, advanced 22.68 per cent for all of 1989, up from 14.44 per cent for all of 1988.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose about 26 per cent this year, after climbing 12.4 per cent in 1988, and advanced 5.98 points in the week to close at 353.40 on Friday.

Port authorities said the slick stretched 280 km (175 miles) and more oil was pouring from the tanker as ocean currents pushed it south about 100 miles off the Sardinian fishing port of Safi.

The Spanish vessel Pointe Salennes was on the scene with 25,000 litres of chemicals to disperse the slick and Morocco had ordered another 40,000 litres of similar products.

Map said the Moroccan navy was on alert and anti-pollution centres were being set up in the Atlantic ports of Casablanca, Jorf Lasfar, Oualidia and Safi.

The Dow Jones industrial average, the key stock market barometer, has performed better only in 10 years since 1925. It ended 20.90 points higher at 2,753.20 on Friday, a gain of 584.63 for the year.

For the week, the Dow finished up 41.81 points, a 1.5 per cent gain.

Most predictions call for the Dow to reach 3,000 in 1990. Still, life on the street was far from rosy in 1989. Hugh Johnson, first Albany Corp's chief investment officer, said

it was a year of "recession without recession."

The official news agency Map said Morocco had appealed for international help to have the tanker towed at least 300 miles further from its coast.

**BUSINESS****Economic team may not shift debt policy**

MANILA, Jan 1, (Reuters): The new Philippine economic officials named by President Corazon Aquino yesterday are experienced bankers expected to continue the conservative approach on paying the country's \$27-billion foreign debt, analysts said.

Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao is a 49-year-old bachelor whom Aquino appointed last August to head the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda).

The new Central Bank Governor, Jose Cuisia, was chief of the social security system and joined the Philippine debt panel that negotiates with the country's creditors when former finance secretary Vicente Jayme had heart surgery in Houston.

Western bankers and Philippine economists said they did not expect any shift in Manila's cautious debt policy, with Jayme still acting as overall co-ordinator on economic issues for Aquino.

Jayne left the finance portfolio after being named on Sunday by Aquino as presidential co-ordinator for finance and economic affairs. Fernandez is scheduled to resign on Jan 20 to retire.

The two men successfully negotiated in 1989 new financing arrangements with the International Monetary Fund and World Bank and rescheduled loans with the country's Paris Club creditors.

They also reached an agreement with commercial bank creditors in New York in October 1989 on a debt buy-back plan that will cut Philippine commercial debt.

**Ben Ali raises minimum wage.**

TUNIS, Jan 1, (Reuters): President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali raised Tunisia's minimum wage by about 10 per cent yesterday and said the government would pursue its plan for consultations with the opposition despite opposition reservations.

In a New Year address, Ben Ali said the minimum wage would rise 10 dinars (\$31) a month for non-agricultural workers and nine dinars (\$10) for agricultural workers.

Minimum wages in force since April 1988 were about 80 dinars (\$38) for agricultural workers, 110 dinars (\$120) a month for other workers who do a 48-hour week and 96 dinars (\$107) for those who do a 40-hour week.

He said this was the most the government could offer given the limited means at its disposal.

Ben Ali said it was unfortunate that some political parties had not understood him last November when he invited them to join a national pact council to discuss the laws regulating political life in Tunisia.

Most of the six recognized opposition parties, which have no seats in parliament, set tough conditions for taking part, such as a government commitment to reform the electoral code and to give them a voice on state-controlled radio and television.

But Ben Ali said the government had decided to call a meeting of the council anyway under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Ahmed Karoui. He gave no date.

Interest rates		
Period	Rate	Offered
1 month	8.1/14	8.1/12
3 months	8.1/14	8.1/12
6 months	8.1/16	8.5/16
1 year	8.1/16	8.5/16

**Africa plans second decade of industrialisation****Top priority after food self-sufficiency**

NAIROBI, Jan 1, (Reuters): Africa, bantling to turn a long cherished dream into reality, plans a fresh drive in the 1990s towards industrialisation.

As independence began to sweep Africa from 1957 most governments pinned their hopes for future prosperity on industrialisation.

But that goal has proved elusive on a continent mired in poverty and whose people, the World Bank says, are almost as poor now as they were 30 years ago.

Disappointed with initial efforts to realise their dream, African leaders declared the 1980s a decade of industrial development, making this top priority after food self-sufficiency.

Yet as other parts of the world advanced to the threshold of a new technological age, Africa suffered severe setbacks.

"De-industrialisation has proceeded on an unprecedented scale," declared Adebayo Adedeji, executive secretary of the UN Econ-

**Rural bank takes economic reform to Bangladesh villages**

MOGRAPARA, Bangladesh, Jan 1, (Reuters): Safura Begum starts her day early to finish household work before the sun is up and get her children ready for school. Then, along with her neighbours, she awaits an "every-morning" visit from her bank manager.

He arrives with a smile and asks if the boys have new books or the girl has recovered from illness. Any discussion about banking comes much later.

"This is how we operate," said Arshad Alam, the manager of Mognapara branch of the Grameen Bank.

By the time the villagers had finished their breakfast I have trekked six or seven miles to get to them," he says.

Alam, talking to Reuters at his office 40 km (25 miles) from Dhaka, compares the role of a Grameen bank official with that of a rural schoolteacher.

cher who sets out every morning to check on pupils.

"We talk hygiene, education, agriculture and domestic problems before getting down to business," he says. "And this trick has so far proved highly successful."

The idea for the Grameen (rural) Bank was conceived by Dr Mohammad Yunus, a professor of economics at Chittagong University who said it was his dream to revolutionise Bangladesh's rural economy.

The Magsaysay award-winning economist set up the first branch of the Grameen Bank on an experimental basis in 1976 not far from his place of work.

Most villagers, who account for 85 per cent of Bangladesh's 100 million people, live in dire poverty. The coun-

try's annual per capita income is only \$170.

Villagers told Yunus they had no money to save with conventional banks nor had they any idea of earning interest.

So Yunus thought of a bank with a difference that would provide the landless and mostly illiterate women with credit facilities from funds he borrowed from a local bank.

Since then the Grameen Bank has come a long way. Its present clientele numbers more than 630,000 people in 14,310 villages, registered with 632 branches.

After initial success, funding came from the Bangladesh Central Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and other sources.

The bank has so far lent \$160 million and received back more than 130

million. "The rate of (loan) recovery is spectacularly high compared with other banks," Alam said.

Before granting loans to individuals, the bank forms borrower groups each with five villagers and gives them mandatory training for two weeks.

The first loans, for a maximum of 10,000 taka (\$320) each, go to two group members. If they repay the loans regularly, two more come on the list. And after a month or so, the fifth member, who is the group's chairman, gets credit.

Borrowers are free to use the loans to buy cattle, build a house or start a small business. But they must repay the loans, with interest, within a year by weekly installments before another loan is granted.

More than 75 per cent of the bank's

shares is owned by the landless members and the rest is retained by the government.

Borrowers' savings account for 10 per cent of the total loans disbursed.

The bank has started a savings scheme for children. The money is used for hiring teachers for them and buying books and clothes.

The bank also operates a social development programme called "Sixteen decisions" that helps motivate members with discipline, unity and hard work to improve their living standards.

To improve standards of health, all bank members must have sanitary latrines at their homes. Any house built with a bank loan must stand on concrete pillars, supplied by the bank from its own plant, to withstand floor or

cyclone.

"Banking is not our primary goal. We want to change every aspect of an individual's life," Alam said.

"Now we look forward to a golden future," said borrower Ahmad Hus-

ain. To make it easier for the borrowers, bank officials go from door to door to collect the repayments. "People feel greatly encouraged by such gestures," Alam said.

The bank now operates in 38 of Bangladesh's 68 districts and hopes to open branches all over the country by 1995.

"The Grameen Bank has shattered the idea of traditional banking," Alam said.

Many Asian and African countries are now trying out such projects, he added.

**Turkey keen to expand trade ties with Moscow**

Soviet Union, Iran big markets for Ankara

ANKARA, Jan 1, (Reuters): Turkey is looking to expand trade with the Soviet Union and Iran amid upheavals in Eastern Europe and uncertainty over its future with the European Economic Community (EEC), official sources said.

It has strengthened economic ties with the Soviet Union and is mending fences with Iran after a largely religious dispute earlier this year affected trade relations.

The Soviet Union and Iran are big markets for Turkey and cannot be ignored. It is only natural that our business community should be interested," one official source said.

Turkey is eyeing lucrative contracts in both countries at a time when it fears it might be sidelined by Europe as the continent grappling with economic and political problems posed by the dismantling of East-West barriers.

Officials say trade volume with the Soviet Union is likely to total \$1.2 billion in 1990, triple the 1986 figure, and both sides speak of up to \$4 billion in 1994.

A senior Soviet diplomat, noting Turkey's membership of the Nato-Western alliance, said: "We do not want to bring Turkey out of its present alliances."

The whole process of dealing with Turkey is based on the assumption that we have put aside military binoculars."

Turkey and Iran signed an economic protocol last February to double annual trade volume to

\$2 billion. Relations subsequently soured over a ban on women wearing Islamic-style headscarves in Turkish universities but have since improved.

"It would be too much to call it the start of a new era in relations with Iran but ties are warming up," a foreign ministry official said after a high-level contact in Tehran last week.

There is now a wariness in Ankara about the EEC. The European Commission this month shelved Turkey's 1987 application for full EEC membership until the community established a single market in 1992.

Turkey has been an associate member since 1962 and EEC states have traditionally been a cornerstone of its trading policy. They accounted for 40 per cent of its total trade volume of \$25 billion in 1988.

To help trade with Moscow, Turkey's Export-Import Bank says it plans to extend a buyer's credit of \$100 million after two earlier credits in 1989 worth 150 million each.

Also in the pipeline is an agreed \$350 million in credits to finance about 30 Turkish turnkey projects in the Soviet Union ranging from hotels to shoe manufacturers.

Turkey, which drew trade benefits by remaining neutral in the Iran-Iraq war, now sees itself ideally suited to help to rebuild damaged cities in Iran as well as in Iraq.

**Economic tasks growing****IMF faces cash squeeze**

WASHINGTON, Jan 1, (Reuters): The International Monetary Fund (IMF), facing new challenges in Eastern Europe and Latin America, may have to ride out a cash squeeze until 1992 if the United States has its way.

A senior administration official said the United States, the IMF's largest shareholder, might be willing to support a marginally bigger rise in fund quotas than the figure of 35 per cent it has endorsed so far—but only if the increase goes into effect after 1991.

The Bush administration, seeking the delay to buy extra time to sort out its own budget problems, is also demanding more progress in tackling the problem of more than \$3 billion in late payments owed to the fund, the official said.

The IMF, which makes emergency loans to countries with balance-of-payments problems, administers a pool of cash paid in by its members, so if some borrowers fail to repay on time it reduces the funds available for others.

The administration is setting tough conditions to soften the opposition it knows it will encounter in Congress. Many US politicians regard a vote for the IMF as a vote for more foreign aid and a lifeline to banks saddled with Third World debts both unpopular with voters.

Monetary sources said US officials have indicated that they could perhaps back a 50 per cent increase in quotas, or membership contributions, which now total \$12 billion.

But even if a figure in that range were agreed at an IMF policy-making meeting tentatively set for Jan 25 in Washington, the prospect of a two-year waiting period promises to be an unwelcome distraction at a testing time for the fund and other debt-crisis

managers.

IMF managing director Michel Camdessus has recommended board approval of a \$710-million loan for Poland to back a bold programme of reforms aimed at reviving an economy that has ossified under 45 years of central planning.

Fund officials admit that they have no guarantees that the programme, expected to slash real wages by 20 per cent and make about 400,000 people unemployed, will work.

The challenge is enormous but so are the potential rewards. If Poland pulls it off the strategy of drastic adjustment will be held up as a model for the rest of Eastern Europe and the fund will claim a lot of the credit.

And, that officials believe, would make it a lot easier to push a quota increase through Congress.

Meanwhile euphoria has faded over US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady's bold debt-reduction plan nine months after he launched it to rave reviews.

The World Bank, in a recent report, said it was encouraged by the Brady plan, which seeks to persuade banks to write off part of their debts in return for partial official guarantees on the loans that remain.

"However," the bank added, "it would not be realistic to expect that the new strategy, by itself, can rapidly solve the debt problem of all severely indebted countries."

Only three countries—Mexico, the Philippines and Costa Rica—have reached agreement in principle with their foreign bank creditors to lighten their debt burdens, and none of those accords has been implemented yet.

and, illustrating the challenge ahead, quoted estimates indicating that some \$140 billion in new investment is needed for "priority" projects alone.

This excludes resources needed to rehabilitate existing plant and finance technical aid, for which it gave no estimate.

The World Bank, in a report published in November, agreed that economic setbacks had undermined Africa's industrial ambitions, but said it had become increasingly evident that earlier efforts focused on state-led creation of capacity without regard to cost or markets.

The result was highly inefficient industrialisation, heavily subsidised by consumers and taxpayers," it added.

Although manufacturing grew 11 per cent a year from 1980 to 1986 in China and India and five per cent in other low-income economies, it was virtually stagnant in sub-Saharan Africa where its share of domestic product—at one-tenth—was barely higher than in 1965.

The meagre resources available to most African countries originally meant for development programmes such as the (1980s) industrial decade had to be diverted to emergency measures from economic survival," said the OAU-ECA-UNido report.

It said investment in manufacturing was running below one-fifth of total investment

in the United States. The rate of (loan) recovery is spectacularly high compared with other banks," Alam said.

Before granting loans to individuals, the bank forms borrower groups each with five villagers and gives them mandatory training for two weeks.

The first loans, for a maximum of 10,000 taka (\$320) each, go to two group members. If they repay the loans regularly, two more come on the list. And after a month or so, the fifth member, who is the group's chairman, gets credit.

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More than 75 per cent of the bank's

**Manufacturing sectors expected to lead economic growth****GCC urged to map industrial strategy**

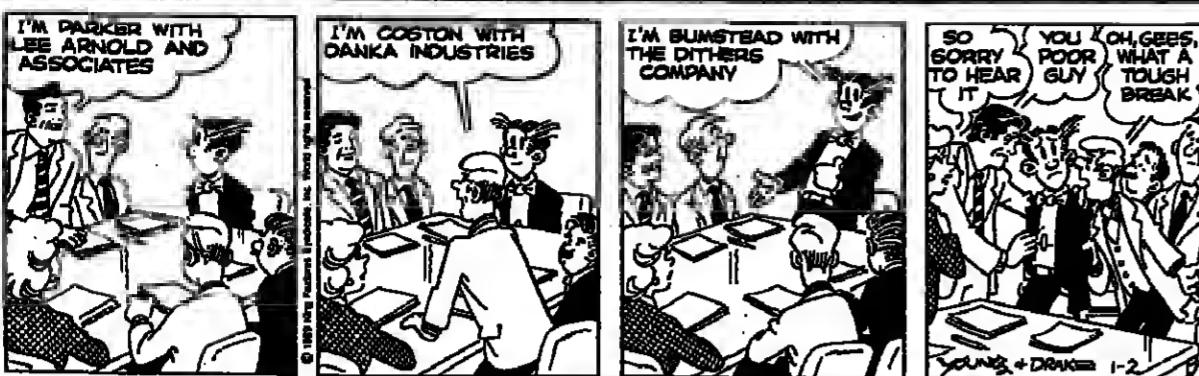
Henry Azzam

THE challenges facing industrial development in the Gulf region during the 1990s is the ability to produce and sell competitively, both in the domestic markets as well as abroad. The highly concentrated development effort of the region's public sectors to build large scale industrial schemes and the comparable hydrocarbon resources of the Gulf countries are leading to the creation of similar industrial bases. This would reduce the scope for regional trade and may increase considerably the risk of competition in the export markets, whether within the region or outside it.

The GCC countries need, therefore, to come up with a coherent industrial strategy for the region as a whole, that eliminates duplication, promotes complementary industrial projects and creates inter-industry and inter-country linkages. This does not only help expand the size of the domestic market but also create forward and backward linkages so that investments in one industry would make investments in other more profitable, according to the GIB report.

There are several barriers to rapid industrial development in the region that need to be addressed. These include the high cost of imported intermediate products, the small size of the local market, lack of industrial management expertise and technical skills among the national population, the ineffectiveness of existing marketing system, unavailability of the necessary information base and adequate research on

## WEDDING



## IRON-CLAD HORRIBLE



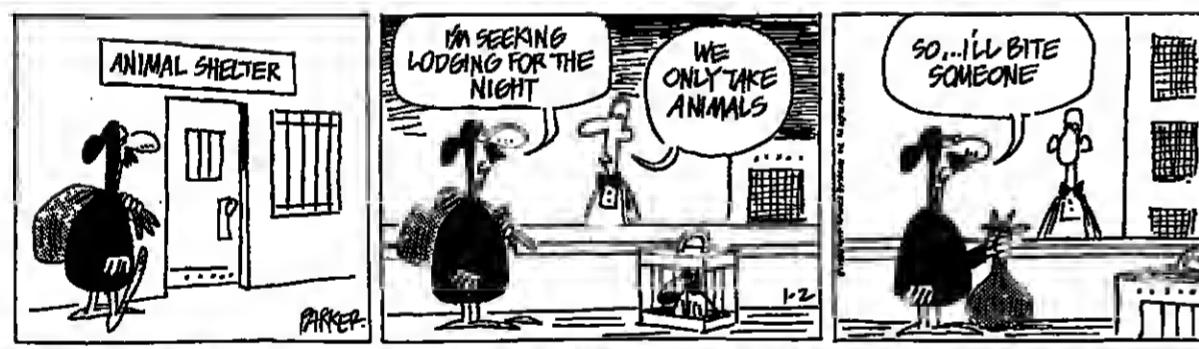
## LAWYER



## THE WIZARD OF OZ



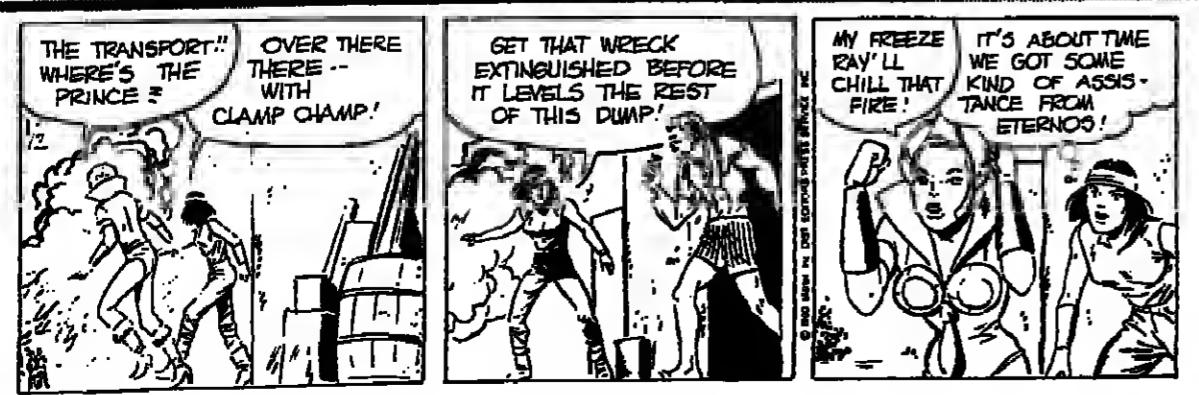
## ANDY CAPP



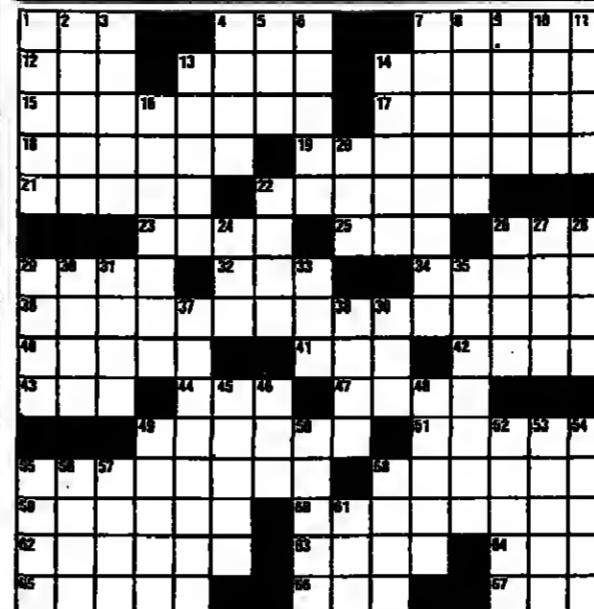
## B.C.



## HE-MAN



## TODAY'S CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

- 1 Chum  
4 Mel Torme, the  
Velvet —  
7 "Giant"  
12 "A Chorus  
Line" tune  
13 Cat's comment  
14 Wine or root  
15 Bogart flick  
of 1948  
17 Each  
18 Shows up  
19 Safety devices  
21 Meat order  
22 European  
polecat  
23 Sari wearer  
25 Clergyman,  
for short  
28 Sheepish  
complaint  
29 See 21 Across  
32 Actress Lupino  
34 "— Got  
Nobody"  
36 Very safe  
40 Shoe material  
41 Summer  
acquisition  
42 Morning  
moistures  
43 Literary  
monogram  
44 Beame or  
Burrows  
47 Emulate a steno  
49 Maager  
51 "— that will live  
In Infamy"; FDR  
55 Door opener  
58 Insight  
59 Punish, In  
Darmstadt  
60 City near  
Buffalo  
62 Photographer's  
gadget  
63 Boob-a-boob:  
boys  
64 Red letters?

## ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

WONT	HUMORE	WRAP
HAIR	ATONE	RILL
ETNA	SATIN	INTO
THANKS	HOSE	GOW
CARELESS	NATANT	SALE
AGAPE	TALCS	NUTS
SLIT	MELEE	ASTA
EOS	CARVE	ALARM
SWEEDEN	OODITIES	ALOA
MISSATE	VERSEO	SIDE
AMAH	TORTE	ALSO
MARE	ELIAS	NOSE
AMIR	SLEET	TEES

## COMICS



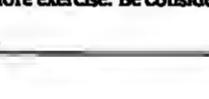
Not everything will be quite to your liking but you will be able to make the most of those things that are. Do not give up learning because it is proving rather more difficult than you expected — persevere. Have a good laugh at yourself. Be bold but circumspect.



Never mind if you are not the first to finish — if you have done your best you can be satisfied. Avoid extravagance but equally avoid meanness. Your lucky umbrellas are 15 and 37. You have a lot to do so try to make the best use of the time available. Be sincere.



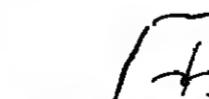
You will be tempted to delay paying your bills: do not succumb. Avoid eating too many sweet or savoury foods. Take just a little more exercise. Be considerate.



Something you have not done for a long time will again become possible. Do not take too much for granted. Avoid showing off and do not take the credit for what you have not done. Be careful.



Do not expect to be beloved for yourself alone. If you do you may well end up alone. You should keep your wits very much about you, and watch out for those who wish to deceive you. Be consistent.



You should not use force where persuasion has not succeeded. There is a likelihood towards unjustified jealousy, resist it. You have no time to waste or energy to spare. Be sensible.



You should avoid the temptation to do something you know well: you should not do. A small infection like a cold should not be neglected. Do not try to have everything your own way: if you do you will not succeed. Be moderate.



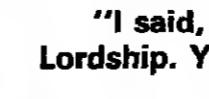
Do not get angry if a problem defies you: just try again calmly. Try to look on the positive side and think more about what you have than about what you have not. Do not postpone what should be done now. Be tactful.



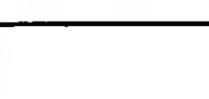
Make sure you are on time for an appointment. Avoid behaving as though most others were beneath your dignity. And do not take too much for granted. Be more methodical.



Show a little more interest in what interests others. However, do not allow yourself to be led astray. Make sure you eat moderately before you end up with a weight problem. Be attentive.



Make sure you are on time for an appointment. Avoid behaving as though most others were beneath your dignity. And do not take too much for granted. Be more methodical.



Do not get angry if a problem defies you: just try again calmly. Try to look on the positive side and think more about what you have than about what you have not. Do not postpone what should be done now. Be tactful.

## GOLEN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOLEN AND OMAR SHARIF  
ONE FOR THE DEVIL

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH	♦ K J 6 3
♦ Q 9 3 2	♥ A Q
♦ 10 8 7	♦ 10 8 7
WEST	EAST
♦ 5 2	♦ Q 10 7
♦ 7 5	♦ J 10 6 4
♦ K 10 9 8 7 6 5	♦ J 4 3 2
♦ Q 5	♦ J 6

SOUTH	♦ A 9 8 4
♦ A K 8	♦ Void
♦ 6 ♠	♦ A K 9 4 3 2

The bidding:	West	North	East	South
3 ♦	Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	5 ♦	Pass
Pass	6 ♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♦

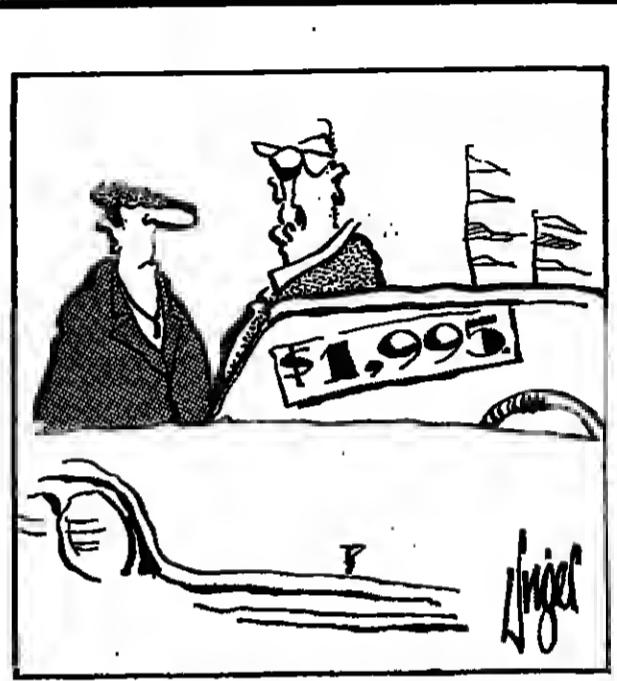
With this first column of the New Year, we would like to wish all our readers health and happiness. However, that is not what West had on his mind when defending this hand from the recent Fall North American Championships.

If you think that West's hand is rather feeble for a vulnerable pre-

empt, we assure you that you are not alone. However, many tournament bridge aficionados believe it is more blessed to interfere with the opponents' auction than to worry about constructive bidding of their own; hence West's action. When North cue-bid in response to South's takeout double, South elected to jump in his weaker suit since North rated to have four cards in each major for his cue-bid. The final contract of six spades was excellent.

Left to his own devices, declarer would certainly have romped home, since the only way to play the club suit is to cash the ace and king, with gratifying results. Declarer's only loser would have been a trump.

When Michael Cappelletti of Washington, D.C., held the West cards, he opted for the devilish lead of the five of clubs. Declarer captured East's jack with the king and soon unaturally presumed West had led a singleton club. After cashing the ace of trumps and taking a losing finesse, declarer won the heart return and drew the last trump coding in dummy. He then ran the ten of clubs—down one.



"We offer the most limited warranty in town!"

"I said, 'Merry Christmas, Your Lordship. You can't take it with you.'"

"He just had a tooth pulled by hypnosis."

## Happy birthday



Archana Kuttu turned 2 on January 1



A.M. Firdos turned 1 on December 31



Mohammed Imad Uddin turned 1 on December 31



Shaun Rodrigues turned 1 on December 27



Ranjit Rajan turned 6 on January 1



Mercy Joseph turned 3 on December 28



Ryan D'Souza turns 6 on January 3



Vibin Vijay turned 6 on January 1



Ashley Francis turned 6 on January 1

## Funny faces

Look carefully at these faces. Which one matches the profile?



## Variety

## English as medium of instruction ignites Dutch fears

THE HAGUE, (Reuter): Two months after taking office, Dutch Education Minister Jo Ritzen has ignited national passions by urging Dutch universities to switch to English as the main language of instruction.

The idea has roused the usually placid Dutch to a rare display of injured patriotic pride, underscoring growing fears that European Economic Community integration in 1992 will bring the death of national culture to tiny Netherlands.

"Ritzen kills Dutch language," wrote Trouw newspaper, putting the headline in English to drive the point home.

One columnist derided Ritzen as a "Euro-yuppie" who would be unceremoniously booted from his post for his suggestion in a more culturally proud country like France.

The controversy over English comes on the heels

of another cultural debate sparked by Ritzen. He has contended that the Dutch and their traditional culture will soon be overrun due to a stream of immigrants from developing nations.

Although his remarks were meant to stress that the Netherlands must be prepared for a more heterogeneous future, critics have accused him of needlessly fueling Dutch fears of cultural extinction.

Many intellectuals are already worried that EEC social harmonisation will force the Netherlands to end a generous government grant system to Dutch artists and oblige them to compete with other EEC citizens for the funds.

"One can easily get the feeling that the dice of culture in our fatherland is about to be burst without any Hans Brinker to stop the flow by putting his finger in the hole," wrote Volkskrant columnist

Willem Kuipers.

It is the debate over English that has most touched a raw nerve among the Dutch.

"The reason that the reaction to Ritzen's fairly rational suggestion has been so emotional is that the Dutch feel their culture is already under threat," Leiden University sociologist Godfried Engbersen told Reuters.

Most Dutch universities flatly rejected Ritzen's suggestion that teaching in English would bring an influx of European Economic Community students to the Netherlands and parliamentarians scrambled to demand he explain his idea.

"It would behead the Dutch language," said Aad Nuis of the centre-left D'66 Party who has led the anti-English reaction in Parliament.

"Our neighbours already think that Dutch is worthless gibberish, a language in which nothing

can be beautifully said. If Dutch is not spoken on an academic level, this would only be confirmed," added Nuis, a well-known literary critic.

Actually, two Dutch universities — the elite privately-run Netherlands School of Business in Nijmegen and the Agricultural University of Wageningen — are already switching to English and most other major Dutch universities have some programmes in English for foreigners.

Moreover, most Dutch speak English well and many know at least one other foreign language.

Academics have been quick to admit that knowing English is crucial to participating in an international intellectual community and some have urged graduate students be examined for their fluency. But almost all reject Ritzen's idea.

"Foreign students usually come here for a few months, as part of an exchange programme.

## Info reform sparked

## Business made better by fax

or copies of their business cards. They want to make strong appeal," said a spokeswoman for station FM-Japan.

Fax use is growing most rapidly outside Japan, especially in the United States and Western Europe, and US companies are taking the lead in new technologies to link faxes with computers and other equipment.

Dataproducts, a market research firm, estimates that 1.4 million faxes have been installed in the United States by the end of last year, a figure that is seen rising to 3.2 million by 1993.

McDonald's, the American fast-food chain, has installed fax machines in some outlets near Wall Street in New York so busy traders can save time by ordering food by fax.

Industry sources estimate Japan will ship 1.2 million fax machines to the European Economic Community this year, more than double last year's level.

British-horo artist David Hockney used a fax machine to transmit 144 sections of a giant picture across the Atlantic to a gallery outside Bradford to narrate England.

The transmission took place before an audience of hundreds, all invited by fax.

The fax revolution has reached the Soviet Union to the extent that Radio Moscow issues a daily fax bulletin with the latest news, and a roundup of other stories.

Political activists, mainly the popular front movements campaigning for greater autonomy in the Baltic republics, Georgia and elsewhere, use faxes routinely.

Fax machines have proliferated in China where they were used during June's pro-democracy demonstrations as a conduit for news sent from overseas.

Last month Beijing tightened security on fax machines to counter a campaign by the Federation for Democracy in China, a Paris-based exiled opposition group, which tried to flood the country with anti-government propaganda.

"If counter-revolutionary materials are received they must be seized immediately and handed over to the police," a government order said.

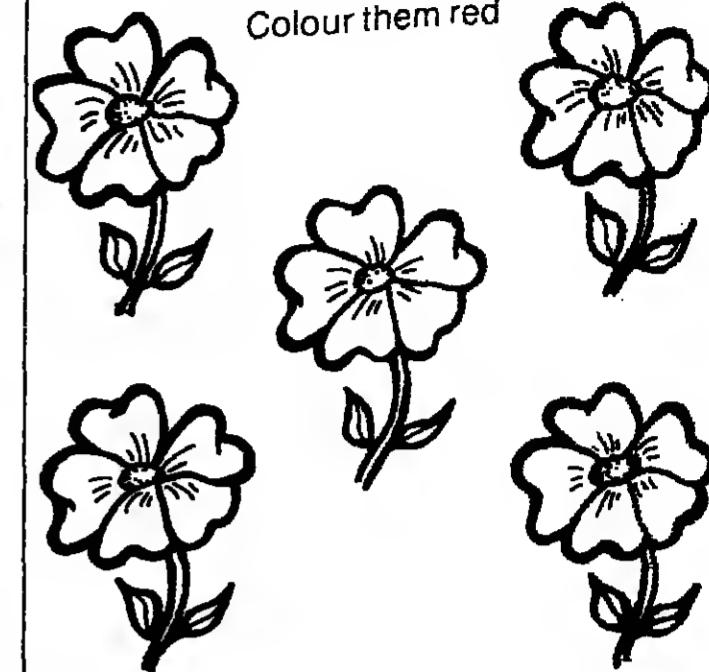
## Young artist



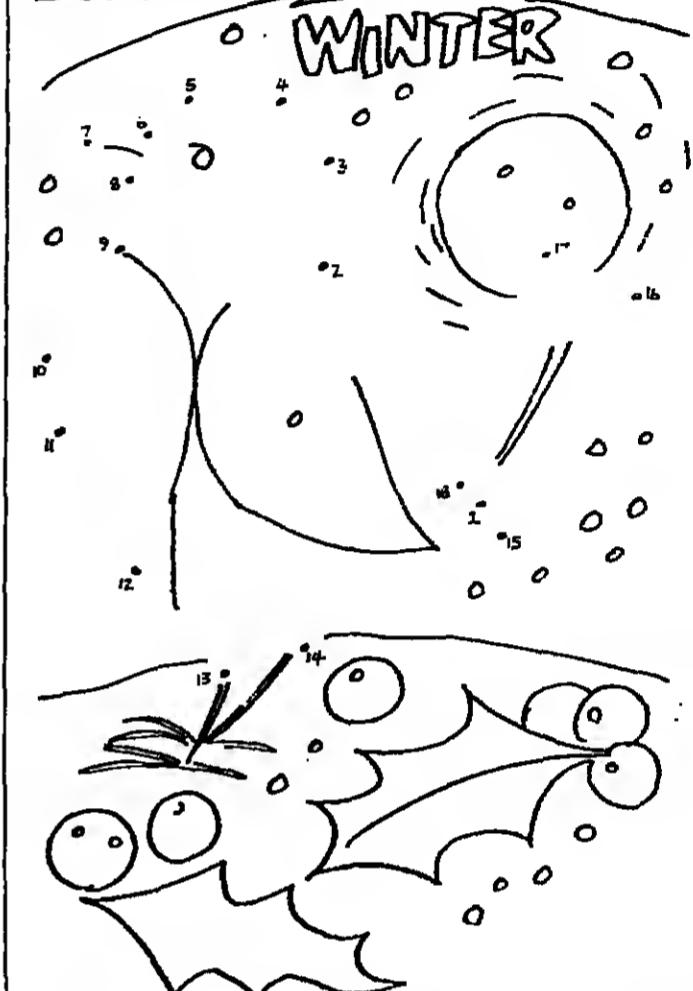
happy New Year

By Dhinaj T. Nain

How many flowers can you see?  
Colour them red



## Dot-to-dot



## New belly-dancing star

## Fifi bares nothing

CAIRO, (Reuter): Fifi Abdou is a star of a new style of belly-dancing in Egypt — perhaps best described as post-fundamentalist.

With not even a glimpse of an uncovered belly, she wows newly-weds on to the stage, kisses girlfriends in the audience and plays up the image of a young peasant woman.

One of Cairo's top belly dancers, she has learnt to accommodate the challenge from Muslim fundamentalists, who are almost as bitterly opposed to music and dancing as they are to women appearing skimpily-dressed in public.

At her show in an international hotel there are few traces left of the cliches which sometimes make belly-dancing a motif for the seedier side of the Middle East.

Now the singing is as important as the dancing. And even the belly fails to move sometimes as she performs what Westerners call bell-dancing because of the rhythmic movement of hips and waist. Arabs refer to it simply as oriental dance.

For some, it is a traditional and serious art form and for others a spontaneous celebration of life, properly performed in private among family and friends at birthdays or weddings.

Egyptians say Islamic militants have either receded as a threat or at least changed tactics after discovering the unpopularity of trying to stop people singing and dancing.

But their influence, which a few years ago forced belly dancing off Egyptian television screens, has lingered on to produce a more demure style.

"There is no doubt belly dancers would have been affected by the atmosphere of intimidation, even if it was not directed at them," said Egyptian syndicated columnist Ahmed Behaeddin.

Belly-dancing, once common in backstreet coffee shops, was dealt its first blow by former president Gamal Abdel Nasser. Seeing dancers as a symbol of the decadent moorish he had just overthrown, Nasser ordered them to be decently dressed.

Then came a new challenge from Islamic militants, who attacked theatres and cinemas in the 1980s and encouraged women's fashion away from

mini-skirts and into veils.

Scenes of belly dancers were cut from films shown on television and are only beginning to reappear — with the dancers wearing more decent dresses.

Nowadays, few dare to go too far in playing up the erotic side of their dancing. National newspapers said last month one dancer was charged by police for failing to wear proper dress.

The fundamentalist scare seems to have passed Abdou by. "I never felt in danger here. Every wedding, every festivity needs a belly dancer," she said in an interview.

But she has nevertheless cultivated a style where her dancing is more innocent entertainment and, she says, art.

"I had an artistic feeling when I was young, but I didn't know what it was," she said.

At the interview in her luxury apartment, Abdou gave every impression of a businesswoman — dealing with endless telephone calls and authoritatively issuing commands.

She appeared without make-up and in jeans, showing off her young daughter.

Abdou, who gives her age as 32, made her first concession to Egypt's sensibilities by changing her name to Fifi from Ayiyat, "so mama wouldn't recognise me."

She started as a model at the age of 14 and later danced in groups. Now she dances at weddings, works in films and tours nightclubs in international hotels.

At 2:30 in the morning, she strolls into her changing room in a short black skirt, her rollers demurely covered by a headscarf. She has already performed for two hours elsewhere.

Blacked by a 20-piece band, she starts with a traditional belly-dance wearing a green sequined strapless dress with only a thin panel of cloth across the midriff. But out of five dress changes in a two-hour show, this is the most daring.

Newly-wed couples look on, a slight look of annoyance flickering across one girl's face as her husband gives all his attention to the dancer.



Lebanon still alive

Lebanese entertainer Madonna steps over an incense burner as she danced in a New Year's Eve celebration at a night club in West Beirut. (Reuters wirephoto)

# The young prince

By Julie Hodgson

ONCE upon a time, there lived a young prince. He lived in a big castle on top of a hill, there were beautiful meadows surrounding the castle, and everyone was happy in the kingdom.

One dark and stormy night, the young prince, after bidding goodnight to the king and queen, went to his bed chamber. The windows on the south wing of the castle were banging, so the prince went to shut them. Just as he was about to shut the shutters, a strange bird flew in. He had never seen such a beautiful bird before, the bird looked very sick, and the young prince, being a nature lover, decided to take the bird to his rooms, and see if he could help the poor thing.

He ordered some warm milk from one of his servants and some soft bread. He lay the tiny bird on a soft silk pillow, the bird looked in the prince's

eyes, as if to say thank you. The servant came in with the milk and soft bread, and the young prince tried to feed it.

When the bird had fallen asleep, the young prince looked at the beautiful bird, he was amazed at 13 colours, it had a yellow, gold head, bright blue wings, and an apricot coloured breast. Before the young prince went to sleep, he kissed the tiny bird on its head, then settled himself down.

For three long days the prince cared for the tiny bird, on the fourth day, he thought it was time to let the bird fly to its own kind. He placed the bird on the ledge, to let it fly, but the bird would not fly away, it just stood there staring at him. He thought he saw a tear trickle down its face. The prince went to wipe the tear drop from the bird's face, as soon he did that, she changed into a beautiful lady, her hair was golden, and she wore an apricot and bright blue

## Questions you'd like to ask

### Why do I feel miserable sometimes?

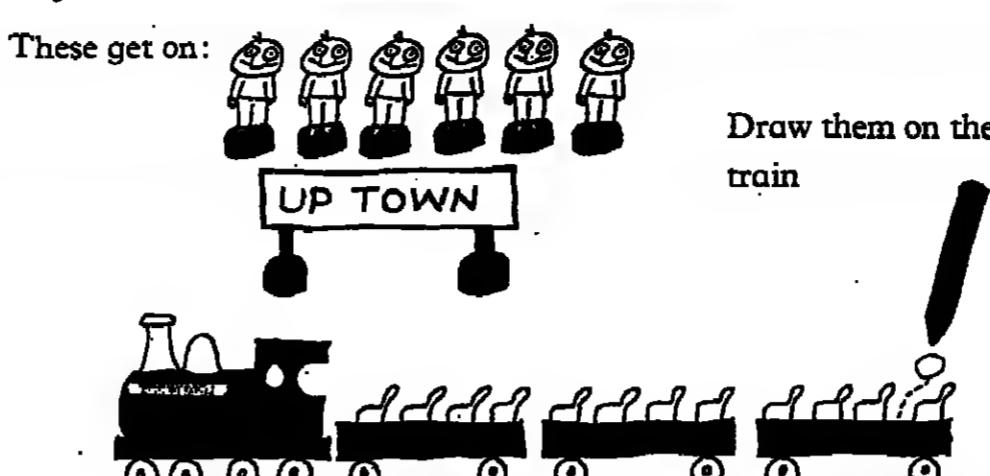
Feelings change, just as the weather does. You may feel happy one minute, then feel sad the next. This is because something has happened which affects how you feel.

### Does my body know what I'm doing with how I feel?

Yes, if you have a cold or a headache, you might feel tired or grumpy. If you have a good night's sleep, you'll probably feel wide awake and full of energy.

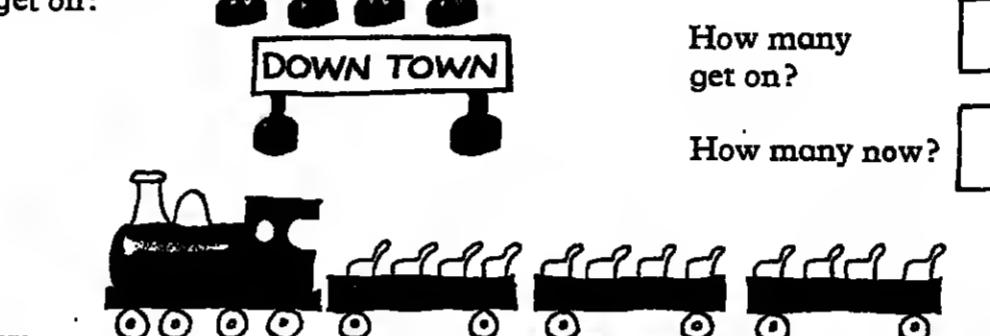
### Toy train sum

These get on:



Draw them on the train

Now these get on:



How many?

How many get on?

How many now?

### Dear Junior readers,

HAPPY New Year. The eighties have ended, and we have entered a new, fresh decade. Sadly, the year 1989 seemed to be full of rioting and death, especially as the year came to a close.

Let us hope that 1990 and the years to follow are somewhat stable and disputes are cleared peacefully. Let us pray that scientists find the cure to diseases which cause so many deaths, particularly those of the past decade.

Let us try our best to help the unfortunate children of the world who are homeless, cold and hungry. There are so many suffering. Some are caught in poverty, they go to sleep with hunger

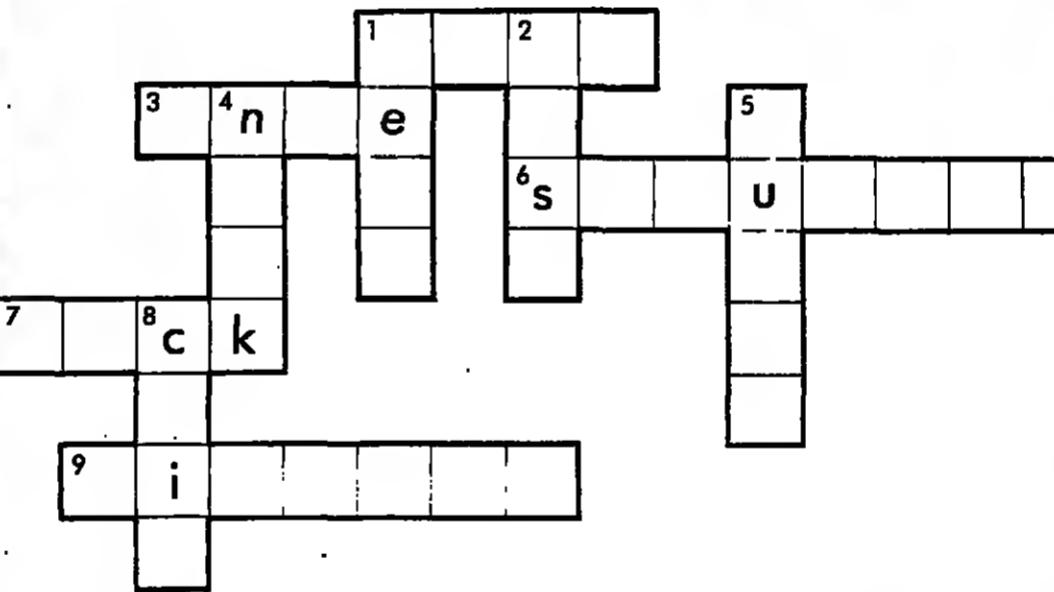
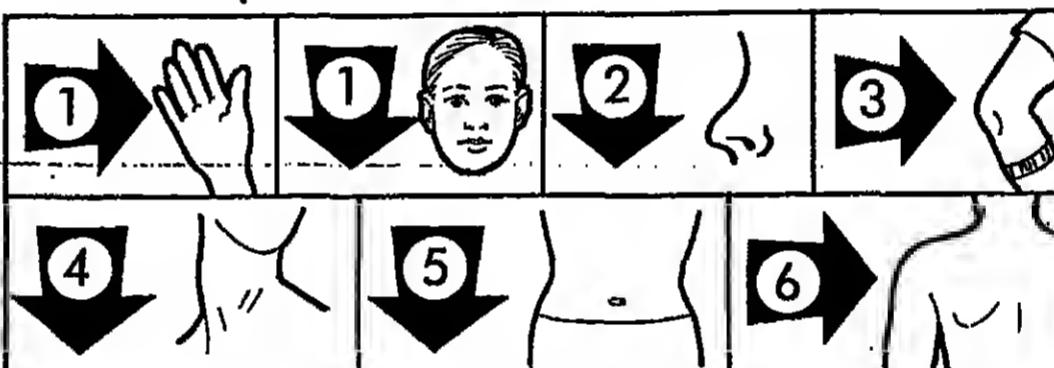
pangs every night and spend their days roaming aimlessly, looking for food. These are the luckier of the lot. Others are orphaned and living the trauma of losing the closest people to them, the people who provided them with the security, warmth and love essential to being. The worst off are those who have been permanently scarred by the evils of war...scared by something they had no hand in and probably fail to understand what it is all about.

With a little effort we may be able to draw a smile on their faces and show them that the world is not as cruel and ruthless as they may think.

Manal

### The body

#### Finish the puzzle.



### Spot the mistake

There are ten mistakes in this picture. Can you find them?



## Word search

### MOUNTAINS

Here's a puzzle that will test your interest. It's all about mountains in the world over, and there are 44 for you to search out. Happy climbing!

AIR	CASCADE	IRON	RICHARDSON	URAL
ALLEGHENY	CATSKILL	LAVA	ROCKY	WHITE
ALP	CHEAT	LOOK OUT	RUSHMORE	WIND
ANDES	ELBRUS	MATTERHORN	SHASTA	ZEIL
APPALACHIAN	ETNA	OLYMPIA	SKIERS	
ARARAT	EVEREST	OPAL	SMOKY	
ATLAS	FUJI	OZARKS	SNOW	
BLANC	GREEN	POCONO	ST. HELEN	
BLUE RIDGE	HIMALAYAS	PYRENEES	STONE	
CANYONS	HOOD	RAINIER	TETONS	

N K Y D S S A S E S H A S T A  
R O O K U N T N A D O U F I P  
O O S R O H O Y T Z A U R Y P  
H L B D E M A W A E J C R A A  
R L Y L R L S R S I W E S T L  
E Y E M A A K E E R N I L A A  
T N W M P S H G R E E A N R C  
T E I H N I D C E O S I A D H  
A H V O I I A S I O M I K C I  
M G T E R T T S N R N H A S A  
B E R E R A E O T I O N S N N  
T L U E R E C A E O Y C D U O  
P L A A E O S R V O N E K P R  
B A R N P N U T N A S E A Y I  
T A E H C A T S K I L L I E Z

## First and last

If we want to describe someone or something as fake, insincere or cheap, we often use the word 'pinchbeck'. This word originated from Christopher Pinchbeck, a jeweller who specialized in making his own imitation gold and called it 'pinchbeck'.

The first underground car park built in Britain was opened in 1931 in Hastings.

The last time that the notorious Paris prison the Bastille, held any prisoners was on 14th of July, 1789 — the day when it was stormed at the beginning of the French Revolution. Not that there was a sudden mass of criminals escaping on the streets of Paris, because there were only seven captives inside at the time.

In 1912 the pilot of a biplane became the first to fly under all of the bridges across the River Thames!

Margarine was first produced in 1863 as a result of a competition to find a substitute for butter.

According to Archbishop Ussher, who lived in the seventeenth century, God created the world at 9.00 am on Sunday 23 October, 4004 BC.

The first human heart transplant operation was performed in Cape Town, South Africa, on 3rd of December, 1967.

The first time that the number of motor vehicles in Britain passed the one million mark was in 1923. Today there are over 19 million vehicles.

The first man in space to be brought safely back to earth was the Russian Yuri Gagarin who achieved this feat in April, 1961. He was tragically killed in an air crash in 1968.

The saying 'The nearer the bone, the sweeter the meat' was first recorded in a ballad written in 1559.

Stainless steel was first used in 1912. It was invented by Harry Brearley.

The last time that 'press-gangs' were used to force men into joining the Royal Navy was about 1850. Men would sometimes be knocked out on shore, and when they came to, they would be on board ship, even sailing out to sea!

## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Is your birthday to come soon?  
Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times?

Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday!

Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them.  
The details we need are:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Hobbies: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Your  
favourite  
most  
recent  
picture  
(4x6)

## My clothes

The science gang is playing a dressing-up game.



Who do you think is going somewhere hot?

and \_\_\_\_\_

What is the weather like where Cruncher is going?

What is the weather like where the others are going?

# ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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**RUMAITHIYA**, on the main road, 3-storey CAC villa with basement, 15 rooms, 3 kitchens, large hall and mulhaq. Suitable for a company. Tel. 5324848. (AT4-50874-3)

## FOR SALE

### Miscellaneous

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### Cars

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**OLDSMOBILE Delta, 1986, fully automatic, 48,000 kms, in excellent condition. KD2,300. Tel. Mr Fadel, 9023725, 5734788 res.** (AT3-50823-6)

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PASSPORT No C386358 in the name of Mr Intiaz Ahmed, Pakistani. Finder please. Tel. 9037737. (AT2-50879-3)

**WANTED**  
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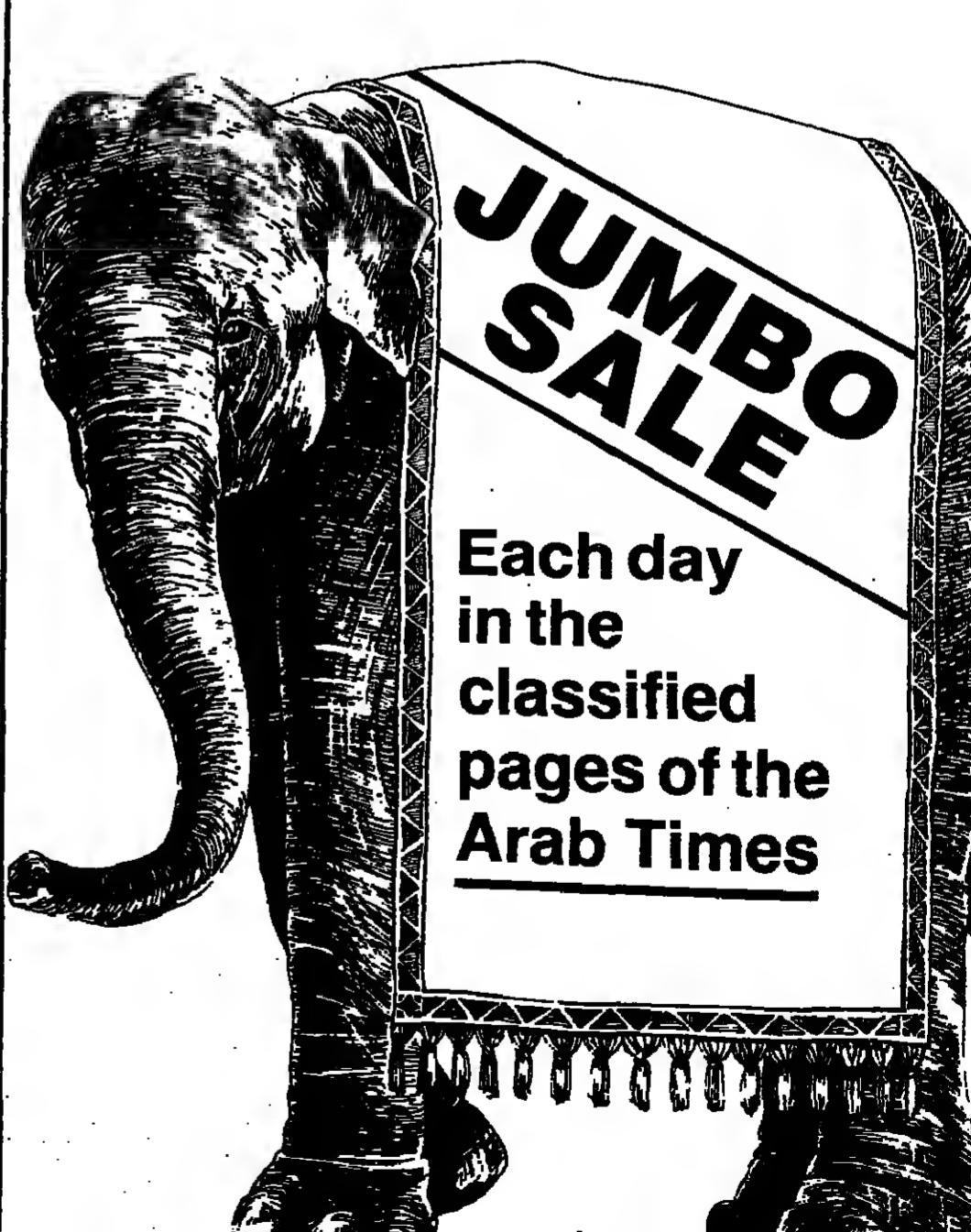
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## SPORTS

### NBA ROUNDUP

## Knicks win over Magic

**NEW YORK.** Jan 1. (AP): Trent Tucker scored 13 of his season-high 21 points in the fourth quarter as the New York Knicks established their longest winning streak in 17 years with a victory over the Orlando Magic Saturday.

The Knicks rallied from three-four-point deficits in the final 12 minutes to remain the only National Basketball Association team that is unbeaten at home this season. They are 12-0 at Madison Square Garden after their ninth straight victory, matching the Los Angeles Lakers for the longest winning streak of the season.

Patrick Ewing led the Knicks, who last won eight in a row in 1972-73, with 28 points.

**Jazz 117, Heat 96**

In Salt Lake City, Karl Malone scored 26 of his 33 points in the second half as Utah handed Miami its sixth straight loss.

Malone, held scoreless in the second quarter, had 12 points in the third period as Utah outscored Miami 26-16 to take a 75-67 lead. He added 14 in the final quarter as the Jazz broke the game open, outscoring Miami 42-31.

Malone, who shot 12-for-17 from the field, also grabbed 15 rebounds. John Stockton had 11 points and 17 assists for the Jazz.

Glen Rice led Miami with 19 points and Rony Seikaly added 17 points and 16 rebounds.

**Bulls 117, Bullets 112, (OT)**

In Landover, Maryland, Michael Jordan, held to 20 points in regulation, scored eight in overtime as Chicago defeated Washington.

Chicago also got 28 points from Scottie Pippen, matching his season high, and Horace Grant had 21.

Jordan hit a jumper with 3:44 left in overtime to tie the game 107-107. Bill Cartwright's free throws at 2:07 put the Bulls ahead by two, and Jordan added baskets at 1:18 and 26.6 seconds to make it 113-109.

Washington's Darrell Walker had his second triple-double of the season, and fourth of his career, with 12 points, 12 rebounds and 13 assists; Jeff Malone led Washington with 29 points, and Bernard King had 24.

**Hornets 111, Rockets 92**

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Armon Gilliam's season-high 24 points and 15 rebounds helped Charlotte win its second consecutive game, a victory over Houston.

Charlotte outscored the Rockets 15-2 to open the fourth period and shot a season-high 55 per cent from the field, their first time over 50 per cent in 19 games.

It was the first time all season Charlotte has won back-to-back games and it was the team's first-ever win over Houston in five games.

**Cavaliers 110, Suns 102**

In Kitchener, Ohio, Mark Price scored 12 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter and Cleveland held Tom Chambers scoreless from the field in the second half as the Cavaliers stopped a five-game losing streak by beating Phoenix.

Price and Steve Kerr each hit two 3-pointers in the second half to bring Cleveland back from a 60-54 halftime deficit.

**Pistons 117, Nets 108, (OT)**

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Gerald Henderson led a 34-13 second-half run with two 3-pointers as Detroit broke open a close game and coasted to victory over New Jersey.

Joe Barry Carroll's hook shot with 6:22 remaining in the third period tied the score 64-64, but Detroit outscored the Nets 18-9 for the rest of the period for an 82-73 lead.

The Pistons went on to lead 98-77 less than four minutes into the fourth quarter and weren't threatened again.

**Mavericks 116, Nuggets 108, (OT)**

In Dallas, Rolando Blackman scored five points of his 29 points in overtime, leading the Dallas Mavericks to a victory that broke the Denver Nuggets' five-game winning streak.

James Donaldson added 20 points and 16 rebounds, recording his fifth consecutive double-double in those categories.

## Hangover for Napoli

## Happy New Year for Real Madrid

**MADRID.** Jan 1. (Reuters): Spanish League leaders Real Madrid greeted the New Year as the happy holders of a goal-scoring record but their Italian counterparts Napoli were still suffering the hangover of their first defeat of the season.

Real trainer John Toshack's only regret after his side had thrashed Osasuna 4-1 on Saturday to notch up a record 40 goals in their first nine games was that the margin of victory was not even greater.

"We could have scored more goals if the conditions of the pitch had been better," the jubilant Briton said.

Napoli's defeat, 3-0 to middle-of-the-table Lazio, owed much to an uninspired performance from captain Diego Maradona and has made life tougher at the

### American Football League

## Steelers upset Oilers in playoff overtime

**HOUSTON.** Jan 1. (Reuters): Gary Anderson booted a 50-yard field goal in sudden death overtime to lift the Pittsburgh Steelers to a 26-23 upset victory over the Houston Oilers in the National Football League playoff yesterday.

Anderson, who kicked four field goals without a miss, made the winner after Pittsburgh semi-finalists had come from behind with a touchdown that tied the score at 23-23 with 46 seconds left in regulation time.

The victory moved Pittsburgh into the American Football Conference semifinals against the Denver Broncos next Sunday. The Buffalo Bills travel to Cleveland to play the Browns in the other semifinal on Saturday.

The National Football Conference playoff game also produced an upset as the visiting Los Angeles Rams beat the Philadelphia Eagles 21-

7. The Rams advanced to an NFC semifinal against the New York Giants on Sunday, while the San Francisco 49ers host the Minnesota Vikings on Sunday.

Pittsburgh's triumph continued an amazing comeback for the Steelers who lost their first two games this season by an aggregate 92-10 before finishing with a 9-7 record.

Anderson's deciding field goal came after a ferocious tackle of Lorenzo White by defensive back Rod Woodson caused a fumble on Houston's first possession of overtime. Woodson also made the recovery on Pittsburgh's 45-yard line.

Behind the strong running of fullback Merrill Hoge, Pittsburgh moved to the Houston 33 yard line to set up Anderson's game-winning kick.

The Steelers had trailed Houston, who came on strong after a slow start, by 23-16 with the running

but tied the game with less than a minute left when Hoge dived in from the one for a touchdown that capped an 82-yard march.

Pittsburgh won the coin toss to start overtime and received the kickoff but were forced to punt. Woodson's crushing tackle that forced the fumble came soon after.

The Steelers led Houston 10-6 at the half, scoring the only touchdown by capitalising on a blocked punt by Jerry Olsavsky. On fourth and inches from the nine, running back Tim Worley burst through the line and scored for a 7-0 lead.

A pair of field goals by Tony Zendejas moved Houston within one before Anderson made it 10-6 with a 25-yard kick.

Each team had a field goal in the third quarter and Anderson booted another at the start of the fourth to give Pittsburgh a 16-9 lead.



Manchester United's Mark Hughes dodges past Wimbledon's John Scales (right) during their First Division match at Plough Lane. The match was drawn 2-2. (Rauer wirephoto)

## Liverpool most likely to stay on top in 90's

**LONDON.** Jan 1. (Reuters): After more than two decades Liverpool still bestride English soccer.

They enter the 1990s on top of the First Division and the club most likely to stay there.

If the colossus wobbles, then it is out for long and woe to anyone who tries to write them off.

Under the guidance of Bill Shankly, Bob Paisley and now Kenny Dalglish, Liverpool have

game in an unprecedented manner.

The squad is so strong Dalglish can even afford to leave the likes of Peter Beardsley and Steve McMahon on the substitutes bench. Many a club would give their eye-teeth for players with one quarter the skill, energy and vision of either man.

Given such a talented set of players, can Liverpool rule the next 10 years? Dalglish said: "If there is anybody going to be top this is the club that deserves to be."

## Italy's Manfredonia emerges from coma

**ROME.** Jan 1. (AP): Soccer player Lionello Manfredonia, who was felled by a heart attack during a Roma-Bologna match, emerged from a coma today and said his first words since he was stricken on Saturday.

"I had just wished him a happy new year," his wife, Carolina, told reporters at a Bologna hospital where Manfredonia was taken after collapsing five minutes into play. "He opened his eyes, asked how he wound up here, and asked me to go find him a cigarette."

Doctors had expressed worry that the 33-year-old athlete for Roma might have suffered brain damage when his heart stopped twice in the first minutes following the attack.

Manfredonia regained consciousness earlier than they expected, causing doctors to be more optimistic today.

Danielle Braccetti, head of the cardiology department of Bologna's Maggiore Hospital, said Manfredonia "is able to move all limbs and remembers some events of his career, so I am convinced we are going to make a full recovery."

The doctor also said the player asked his wife who won the match and was happy that his team was victorious.

While Manfredonia was in a coma, doctors had expressed doubts he would ever be able to play again, and it was unclear if today's earlier-than-expected rebounding changed his prognosis.

## Ecuadorian wins St Silvester race

**SAO PAULO.** Jan 1. (AP): Roland Vera of Ecuador yesterday won an unprecedented fourth consecutive win in Sao Paulo's annual St. Silvester footrace.

The 24-year-old Vera, who won his first St. Silvester race in 1986, ran the 12.6-km (7.8-mile) race in 36 minutes, 45 seconds.

In the woman's race, Maria Del Carmen Diaz of Mexico was the winner in 43:52.

Only two other athletes have won as many times as Vera, but not consecutively. They were: Gaston Roelants of Belgium in 1964, 1965, 1967 and 1968, and Colombia's Victor Morato in 1972, 1973, 1975 and 1981.

Second place went to Brazil's Valdenor Dos Santos in 37:09. He was followed by compatriots Diamantino Dos Santos in 37:28 and Delmira Dos Santos in 37:31. Fifth place went to Mexico's

Roberto Alonso Maival in 37:34.

It took Vera about 10 minutes to work his way through hundreds of runners and make it to the front to take the lead in a steady drizzle and strong winds.

For a few kilometres, Vera shared the lead with Uruguay's Nelson Zamora, Diamantino Dos Santos and Valdenor Dos Santos, also of Brazil.

About halfway through the race Vera and Valdenor Dos Santos had left everyone else far behind. For about 15 minutes they ran side-by-side with one taking the lead for a few seconds before being overtaken by the other.

At the start of the final two-km (just over a mile) uphill stretch Dos Santos started tiring and Vera quickly distanced him by about 30 metres (90 feet).

**Dunhill powerboat surprises partygoers**

New Year's Eve partygoers at Bahrain's Diplomat hotel received an unexpected thrill when they learned that the prize in the Dunhill draw was no less than a \$30,000 speedboat.

The gleaming 20 foot Horizon 200 speedboat with a 225 h.p. Johnson engine stood innocently at the hotel's entrance as unsuspecting guests filed into the hotel for Bahrain's most prestigious social event of the year.

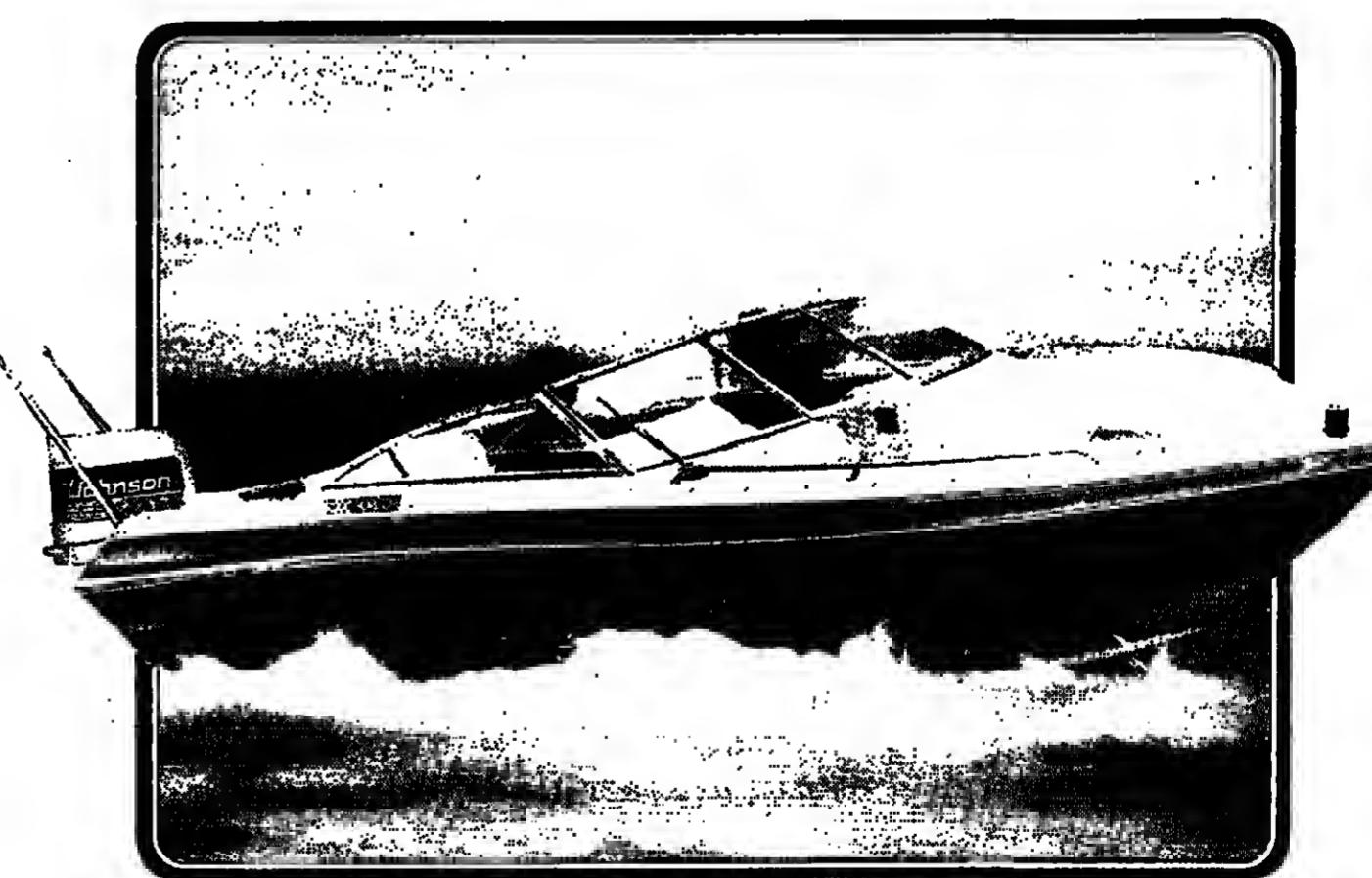
At 11:30, Kathleen Pistillo, the well-known TV personality from Bahrain Channel 55 conducted the prize draw and announced the lucky prize winner's name. A replica model of the speedboat was revealed in the foyer of the hotel and a further announcement confirmed that indeed the magnificent speedboat everyone had admired at the entrance was in fact the Dunhill prize.

A spontaneous round of applause followed as the dazed, yet delighted winner stepped up amidst a fanfare of music to receive the keys to this most glamorous of prizes.

Said an excited partygoer "we knew the prize was going to be special because Dunhill were presenting it, but we had no idea it would be as extravagant as this. We thought the boat at the entrance was just a display and couldn't possibly have been the evening's prize."

The powerboat, especially painted in Dunhill burgundy and grey was complete with stereo radio/cassette system, remote-controlled flashlights, navigational compass and trailer.

**DUNHILL CONGRATULATES  
MR. SHANS BUTT  
ON WINNING THIS  
SUPERB 20 FOOT DELUXE  
SPEEDBOAT  
IN THE  
DUNHILL  
NEW YEAR'S EVE DRAW  
AT THE DIPLOMAT HOTEL  
BAHRAIN**



**DUNHILL**  
*International*

Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

## SPORTS

## SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

**Hopman Cup**

PERTH, Jan. 1. (AP): Arantxa Sanchez outplayed Pam Shriver 6-3, 6-3 tonight to lead Spain to a 2-1 victory over the United States in the final of the Hopman Cup team tennis tournament at the Burswood Superdome.

Emilio Sanchez defeated John McEnroe 5-7, 7-5, 7-5 in an ill-tempered men's singles to give Spain a 1-0 lead, but the US rallied when McEnroe and Shriver defeated the brother and sister combination 6-3, 6-2 in the mixed doubles.

They left the women's singles to decide the final of the 12-team exhibition event and veteran Shriver proved no match for ultra-consistent 18-year-old French Open champion Sanchez.

**Queensland Open**

BRISBANE, Jan. 1. (AP): Veteran Japanese player Etsuko Inoue upset ninth seeded Australian Anne Minter in three sets today in the first round of the \$150,000 Danone Queensland Open women's tennis championship at the Milton Tennis Centre.

Inoue, who went into the match with a 1-5 record against Minter, triumphed 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 to gain the round of 32 in the 56-draw event.

Minter was playing her first tournament since the Federation Cup in Tokyo in October and her lack of fitness told in the final set.

**Relay marathon**

BARCELONA, Jan. 1. (AP): US runners won the Ekiden-89 international relay race by their women's teams in Barcelona.

The US team won the 42.1-km (26-mile) race in 2:19:22, the second of Barcelonans in 2:19:22. Japan finished second, just three seconds behind.

Portugal was third with 2:20:32.

**Paris-Dakar rally**

PARIS, Jan. 1. (Reuter): Provisional leaders after the fourth stage of the Paris-Dakar rally from Sabha to Timi in Libya today:

1. Ari Vatanen (Finland) Peugeot four hours 49 minutes three seconds time penalties; 2. Björn Waldegård (Sweden) Peugeot 48 minutes seven seconds behind; 3. Philippe Wambergue (France) Peugeot, 1:51:02; Salvadore Servia (Spain) Range Rover, 2:46:18; 5. Andrew Cowan (Britain) Mitsubishi, 2:49:22; 6. Henri Pescarolo (France) Range Rover, 3:34:59; 7. Alain Amrosio (France) Peugeot, 3:37:13; 8. Raoul Raymond (France) Range Rover, 4:00:48.

**BP nationals**

WELLINGTON, Jan. 1. (AP): Lars Wahlgren upset defending champion Kelly Everenden today as Swedish players sparked on the first day of the \$150,000 BP nationals tournament, opening event of the New Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) tour.

Fast-rising Wahlgren, who made the final of the Australian Indoor championships in October, outlasted fourth seeded New Zealander Everenden 3-6, 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (7-5) in a marathon centre court battle at the Renou Tennis Centre.

Wahlgren was joined in the second round of the 32-draw tournament by compatriot Lars Johnson and Christian Bergstrom.

**Ski jumping**

LAKE PLACID, New York, Jan. 1. (AP): Daniel O'Meara of the US nordic combined ski team made two 34-metre jumps Saturday to win the annual New Year's 70-metre ski jump.

O'Meara, of the US, finished with 212.7 points, edging team-mate Joe Holland, also of the US, who collected 211.9 points on jumps of 84 and 85 metres.

Kirk Allen, a Canadian ski team member, who third with 211.4 points on jumps of 84 and 85 metres. Kaarlo Rautio of Canada (207.7) and Todd Wilson of the US (195.5) placed fourth and fifth, respectively.

**Shield cricket**

BRISBANE, Jan. 1. (Reuter): Scores at the close of the third day of the fourth Sheffield Shield cricket match yesterday:

New South Wales 367 and 146 for seven (Trevor Bayliss 47, Steve Storey four for 19); Queensland 265 (Peter Chilford 75, Chris Smart 58).

Sheffield Shield standings (tableau under played, w/o, drawn, lost, points):

Queensland 5 2 2 1 18  
New South Wales 4 1 2 1 10  
Victoria 6 1 5 0 10  
Tasmania 4 0 4 0 4  
South Australia 4 0 2 2 2  
Western Australia 3 0 3 0 2

**Dunwoody**

NEWBURY, Jan. 1. (Reuter): Desert Orchid's jockey Richard Dunwoody picked up a second suspension this week when found guilty of using his whip with unreasonable frequency on Saturday.

Dunwoody was banned for two days after Brown Windsor was beaten by a neck in the Mandarin Chase.

A video of the race showed Dunwoody had hit Brown Windsor 19 times from the second last fence, instead of the allowed figure of 10.

**Welterweight title**

AMIENS, France, Jan. 1. (Reuter): Young French challenger Antoine Fernandez took the European welterweight title on Saturday when he defeated Italy's experienced defending champion Nino La Rocca on a unanimous points decision.

Fernandez, 24, surprised 30-year-old Mauritanian-born La Rocca with a left hook which sent him flying into the ropes near the end of the first round.

The Frenchman, making his second attempt on a European crown, had been on the defensive until then from a furious opening onslaught by the Italian.

# Victory wins Dubai powerboat race

By Gail Seery

**VICTORY** 7, a 32 foot long skater inboard, crewed by Randy Scism and Khalaf Hareb, took its third consecutive Group A win in yesterday's Dubai Offshore Powerboat Race. Following its fast form, the boat opened out a lead early in the race and then took it easy. However, this was the first real test for the boat as it was racing against a fellow inboard for the first time.

The new boat, a 32 footer imported from America especially for this race, was crewed by Salem Juma and Joe Imperia, but any hopes that it would be able to break Victory 7's winning streak were dashed. At first the distance between the boats was close, and though Juma was trailing, it nevertheless appeared that he was within challenging distance. However by the end of the second lap it was clear that this would not be possible, and the Victory boat was able to take it easy.

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